

DECEMBER 24, 1915

NO 534

5 Cents.

FAME & FORTUNE WEEKLY.

STORIES OF
BOYS THAT MAKE MONEY.

TIPPED BY THE TICKER;
OR, AN AMBITIOUS BOY IN WALL STREET.

*By A SELF-MADE MAN.
AND OTHER STORIES*



Phil dashed into the private office with a section of the tape in his fingers. "Look, sir!" he cried, laying one hand on his employer's arm. "Louisville Southern has taken a slump." The wily brokers were thoroughly taken aback.

Fame and Fortune Weekly

STORIES OF BOYS WHO MAKE MONEY

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TIPPED BY THE TICKER

— OR —

AN AMBITIOUS BOY IN WALL STREET

By A SELF-MADE MAN

CHAPTER I.

PHIL BRISTOW AND THE OFFICE STENOGRAPHER.

"Got any money, Ethel?" asked Hewes Bros.' messenger boy, an uncommonly bright-looking lad, as he paused by the stenographer's desk.

"Well, if you haven't got a cheek, Phil Bristow," laughed Miss Carpenter, who was a pretty brunette of seventeen years.

"Sure I have—two of them," chuckled Phil. "But I'm dead serious just now. I've got a tip."

"A tip!" exclaimed the girl, with an interested look.

"Yes. A pointer worth—well, a million to a person with the money to back it; but to me, with only fifty cases or so in the savings bank, it won't cut much ice, which is hard luck, for tips don't spring up every day in my path."

"Tell me about it, will you, Phil?"

"Couldn't do it, Ethel, unless—"

"Unless what?"

"You will go in with me on it—partners, you know. Give me your promise to match my fifty with a similar amount and I'll tell you all about it."

"But I don't want to promise until I know what the tip is, Phil," said the girl, seriously.

"That's just like a girl. Where's your sporting blood, Ethel?"

"But fifty dollars is an awful lot of money to risk on an uncertainty," protested the stenographer.

"Sure it is. But there isn't any uncertainty about this tip. It's a sure winner."

"How do you know it is?"

"How do I know? Well, I'll tell you how I know. I got it straight from the lips of one of the biggest brokers on the Street."

"You did?" exclaimed the girl, in surprise.

"I did," he replied, with solemn earnestness.

"Who was the broker?"

"Tom Jardine."

"And he told you—"

"I didn't say he told me anything."

"Yes, you did. You said you got it from his lips."

"So I did; but he didn't tell me. He told it in confidence to a friend of his, a man named Wetmore, and I accidentally overheard him."

"Oh!"

"He told Wetmore that a pool had just been formed to boom a certain stock, and that he was one of the brokers who was going to do the buying?"

"What was the name of the stock?"

"Say you'll go in with me and I'll tell you."

The girl hesitated.

"Fifty dollars is—"

"A lot of money. You said that before."

"I wasn't going to say that."

"Well, what were you going to say?"

"I was going to say that fifty dollars is nearly all I have in the world."

"Then go in with me and you'll soon have a hundred."

"I don't know about that," replied Miss Carpenter, doubtfully. "It is awfully easy to lose money in stocks."

"Bet your life it is. Easier than anything I know of, unless you are operating on a sure thing."

"I have very little confidence in Wall Street speculation for those who are not on the inside."

"I agree with you; but in this little venture you and I will be on the inside with the knowing ones."

"You seem very confident of that."

"I am or I wouldn't ask you to risk your money, nor I wouldn't think of risking mine, either. This is where we go in on the ground floor and come out at the roof."

"Supposing before we got off the roof it fell in and landed us in the cellar, where would our money be?"

"In the pocket of some broker. I think I am smart enough to get off the roof before it gives way. I've not been in Wall Street a couple of years for nothing. If I haven't speculated yet, it isn't because I don't know how to do it, but because I was too poor and too foxy to jump in before I knew where I was at. Now I see the chance to make a start with scarcely any risk. I call it a cinch. If I had a thousand dollars I'll bet I could make two with it."

"Would you really invest a thousand dollars on the strength of that tip?"

"I certainly would."

"If it was all the money you had in the world, too?"

"That wouldn't make any difference."

"How many shares can you get with one hundred dollars, Phil?"

"The stock is ruling now at 49. I can get 20 shares on margin. If it goes up ten points we'll make nearly one hundred dollars apiece. Isn't that worth while?"

"But will it go up ten points?"

"I'll bet it will go up fifteen. If it should only go up five or six we'll double our money. The combination of capitalists back of this projected boom has got millions to boost the stock with and hold it up until their brokers unload at a big profit."

The girl thought for several moments before she spoke again, and Phil waited patiently for her decision.

"Well, Phil," she said at last, "I'll risk it. I'll go in with you. What is the name of the stock?"

"Great Western," he whispered in her ear. "Here's the last quotation on the ticker, '1,200 G. W. 49 1-8.'"

"When do you want the money, Phil?"

"To-morrow morning."

"I'll bring it over with me."

"All right, pard. You'll be wearing a new gown and hat on the profits in a couple of weeks."

"I hope so," she laughed. "I need both."

"Here comes Mr. Briggs, the cashier. This is where I sneak back to my chair in the other office. He's sore on me."

"Why?"

"Because he wants to be the only one with you."

"The idea! Just as if I cared for him."

"That's just it. He's sour on me because I get the smiles from you and he don't get any."

Phil bobbed his head to her and darted away.

"He's the nicest boy in New York," thought Ethel Carpenter as she watched the good-looking messenger vanish through the brass gate of the counting-room.

The cashier hung up his hat and overcoat, went to his desk, and after a moment or two approached the stenographer's table with a paper in his hand.

"Please make three manifold copies of this, Miss Carpenter," he said.

"Very well, sir," she replied, without looking up.

He hesitated as if he had something more to say, but the girl's manner was not very encouraging in the sense he was looking for.

"Ahem! That's a very pretty waist you have on to-day, Miss Carpenter," he ventured.

"Thank you for the compliment, Mr. Briggs," she replied, calmly, and without removing her eyes from her machine.

"And the rose in your hair becomes you greatly," he added.

She made no reply to this.

He bit his mustache with vexation, for he saw he was not making much headway.

"I think a small corsage bouquet of your favorite flowers would complete the ensemble," he said. "Would you permit me to present you with this one?"

The cashier brought into view the hand he had till now held behind his back, and laid the small bouquet on her table beside the machine.

"You are very kind, Mr. Briggs, but I'd rather not take them."

"Why not?" he asked, almost sharply.

"Because I don't care to accept presents from gentlemen in the office."

"Indeed," he replied, tartly. "I saw you accept a cheap bouquet from Phil Bristow yesterday morning."

"Phil is only a boy; and, besides, we are great friends."

"That is as much as to say you do not consider me a friend."

"Well, hardly in the same sense as Phil."

"I think he is an impertinent young cub," said the cashier, angrily.

The stenographer was silent.

"He puts in altogether too much time around your desk. I am going to speak to Mr. Hewes about it. You'd better give him a hint or two to keep away if you don't want to have him discharged."

Miss Carpenter flushed up, but did not say a word.

"If you were a little more sociable with me, Miss Carpenter, you might find it to your advantage," continued the cashier.

"I don't understand you, Mr. Briggs," replied the girl, coldly.

"If you will permit me to see you to the bridge cars this afternoon I will have more time to explain."

"No, sir; I couldn't think of it."

"I have seen you walk there with Phil Bristow."

"I wasn't aware before that you took such interest in my movements, Mr. Briggs," she answered, with just the least bit of sarcasm in her tones.

"I take more interest than you think, Miss Carpenter. If you would——"

"Mr. Briggs," said Phil's voice at his elbow at that moment. "Mr. Hewes wishes to see you in his office."

The cashier glared at him as if he resented the interruption.

Phil, however, looked him placidly in the eye, and then went on to the wash-room.

When he got back to the stenographer's desk the cashier was gone.

"I'm glad you brought him that message, Phil," she said.

"Why?"

"Because his company was not agreeable to me."

"You ought to have thrown out a hint that you were very busy."

"I doubt if he would have taken it. I gave him no encouragement to talk to me, but he persisted in doing so."

"Did he give you those flowers?"

"He did, but I refused them. Please put them on his desk."

"Certainly," and Phil carried the bouquet to the cashier's den.

As he turned toward the counting-room door he came face to face with Mr. Briggs.

"What were you doing at my desk?" asked the cashier, sharply.

"Placing those flowers on it."

"Who told you to do that?" Mr. Briggs asked, with a scowl.

"Miss Carpenter," replied Phil, turning away.

CHAPTER II.

THE DEAL IN GREAT WESTERN.

Phil Bristow was a smart boy.

Mr. George Hewes, his employer, who was a stock broker of some repute, doing business under the firm name of Hewes Bros., with offices at No. — Wall Street, had said so more than once.

A score of brokers who knew the boy thought so, if they didn't actually say so.

Mrs. Honeywell, who kept a boarding-house in West 28th street, where Phil lived, said so frequently, and the other boarders, especially the young ladies, agreed with her.

Miss Ethel Carpenter, the office stenographer, was sure of the fact, while the rest of the employees, barring Mr. Murray Briggs, the cashier, were non-committal on the subject, but their friendly attitude toward the young messenger was unmistakable.

Mr. Briggs, who showed no disposition to conceal his dislike for Phil, seemed to be about the only one who refused to admit that the boy was smart.

Now, as the majority always rules, it may be taken for granted that Phil Bristow was a smart boy.

He was born in the city of Philadelphia, and had been left an orphan at the age of fourteen. That was a little over three years before the opening of this story.

When he started out to hoe his own row in life he had attracted the favorable notice of a gentleman who personally recommended him to Mr. Hewes, and the broker, being in want of an office boy at the time, hired Phil, and had never felt any regret for doing so.

On the morning following the conversation related in the preceding chapter, Ethel Carpenter brought the \$50, which represented the bulk of her savings, to the office and handed the money to Phil.

If, since she had passed her word to go in with the boy on the deal in Great Western, she had experienced any doubts as to the ultimate fate of that \$50, she did not show it by her manner when she handed him the bills.

She was not a girl to show the white feather, no matter what results might be.

"Thanks, Ethel," said Phil, sticking her little roll in his vest pocket. "I am going to buy the shares at the first chance I get to do so this morning."

The first chance came about eleven o'clock, when he was sent to a stationery store and printing house on Nassau street.

On his way he passed a small bank that was noted for carrying small deals for small speculators.

Phil stepped into this place for the first time in his life.

The reception-room was crowded with customers watching the quotations that were put up on a blackboard at one end of the room by a small boy.

At a desk facing a window that opened on this department stood the margin clerk, who attended to the bank's brokerage business.

His two assistants generally had their hands full with the business that came through that window.

When an order was received to buy or sell stock the order was telephoned to the bank's representative on the floor of the Stock Exchange, who immediately executed the commission.

Presumably the commissions were divided between himself and the bank.

Phil stepped up to the window and gave in the money and the order for twenty shares of Great Western at the market price.

He received back a memorandum of the transaction and some change.

Then he went on to the stationer's, transacted his business, and was soon back at the office.

At the first opportunity he showed the memorandum to the stenographer.

As he passed the cashier's desk he got a black look from Mr. Briggs, whose saturnine features plainly showed the dislike he bore the boy.

Phil, however, didn't care a rap for that gentleman's sentiments.

He took care, though, to accord him the outward respect his position in the office called for, and his diplomacy prevented an open rupture between them.

Will Ashley, one of the clerks, who was particularly friendly with Bristow, beckoned him over to his desk.

"What is Briggs so sore on you about?" he asked Phil, in a low tone.

"I guess it's because Miss Carpenter and I are too friendly," replied the young messenger.

"What difference can that make to him?"

"He wants to monopolize her himself."

"I thought he was a bit sweet on her. She's a deuced pretty girl, all right. I don't believe she wastes much thought on him, even if he is the great mogul when the boss isn't here."

"She doesn't. He isn't quite her style, and he can't help seeing it; and it makes him grouchy."

Ashley chuckled.

"I'm glad of it," he said. "Miss Carpenter is too nice a girl for him. He's a man I don't fancy, for lots of reasons. I don't believe he's to be trusted. If I was the boss I'd have a new cashier."

"You speak as if you knew something about him."

"I do—a heap; but I'm not telling all I know. It isn't good policy. Some day I may tell you, if I think it will do you any good to know, but not now. Better run along now—he's looking at us," and the speaker turned to his book.

Phil took the hint and returned to his post in the waiting-room.

He had scarcely taken his seat when Mr. Hewes rang for him to take a message to the Vanderpool Building, in Exchange Place, and from that time until three o'clock he didn't have many spare moments.

When Phil put on his hat and coat to go home, about four o'clock, he stepped into the counting-room to tell the stenographer that Great Western had not made any upward movement as yet.

On his way up Wall Street he met a messenger acquaintance to whom he had loaned a dollar some time back.

"Hello, Phil! You're just the fellow I wanted to see," said the other lad, whose name was Bob Davis.

"Well, you see me now, don't you," said Phil.

"Sure. I want to pay you that dollar I borrowed," said Davis.

"Small favors are always thankfully received, Bob," replied Bristow.

"Come into this cafe. I want to get a fiver changed."

They entered the place.

Bob led the way to a table in the rear of the room which was partially concealed by some drapery.

"My boss comes in here quite often," he explained, "and I wouldn't care to have him see me here, as he might mistake my motive."

"What do you want to sit down for?" asked Phil. "Can't you ask the cashier to change your bill?"

"I wouldn't like to do it without taking something. It isn't just the thing. What will you have yourself?"

"Nothing."

"Nonsense! Take something mild."

"Well, I'll take a glass of water."

"Pshaw! They don't sell water. I'll order a bottle of soda

or ginger ale for you. Or you can have cider, like myself. Which shall it be?"

"You can make it a soda, since you insist I shall drink with you."

"All right," and he gave the waiter the order.

At that moment three gentlemen entered the cafe and took the table just in advance of them.

Phil recognized one of them, to his great disgust, as Murray Briggs, the cashier.

"How unfortunate that he should come in here just at this particular time. If he sees me he'll put a bad construction on my presence here, and will probably report the circumstances to Mr. Hewes, making it out as bad as he can. I wish I hadn't come in here."

He had reason to change his mind after a few minutes.

CHAPTER III.

MR. BRIGGS IS BROUGHT TO BAY.

"I am very sorry, Mr. Briggs, to have to press you about that money you owe us," said one of the gentlemen, after they had given their orders to the waiter, "but it has been hanging fire so long that we feel it is high time that the matter was settled. What can you do about it?"

"Nothing at present," replied Briggs, a bit sulkily.

"That's the answer you've been giving us right along," replied the other, sharply, "and Salter and I are tired of hearing it."

"What are you going to do about it, then?" asked the cashier, almost defiantly.

"We shall have to bring the matter to Mr. Hewes' attention."

"If you did that you would ruin me!" exclaimed Briggs, thoroughly startled at the man's suggestion.

"That's your lookout, Mr. Briggs," replied the other, with a shrug of his shoulders. "If you will make good half of your indebtedness to us to-morrow, and furnish a reasonable guarantee that the balance will be paid on the first of the month, why we'll hold off. But that's our ultimatum, isn't it, Salter?" turning to his partner.

"That's what it is, Cutler," replied Mr. Salter.

"It is impossible for me to comply with your demand," protested Briggs. "It is out of the question for me to raise \$2,500 by to-morrow."

"You've already had three months to get the money. You might have materially reduced your debt in that time, and thus have prevented us from seeing the necessity of turning the screws on you."

"Why don't you drink your soda, Phil?" asked Bob Davis, at this juncture.

"Hush!" replied Phil, holding up his hand for silence.

Bob looked surprised, but nevertheless complied.

"Well, the fact of the matter is I have been trying to win the money at cards, for I'm an expert with the pasteboards, but luck has been against me," growled Briggs. "I was cleaned out completely the other night, and had to borrow enough to see me through till salary day."

"Then you admit that you haven't any money at all?" said Mr. Cutler.

"I haven't a dollar to my name that I can call my own."

"You hear what he says, Salter?"

"My hearing is very good, Cutler," replied his associate.

"What are we going to do about it, Salter?"

"I'm afraid we'll have to call on Mr. Hewes, Cutler."

"And show him that little note of hand with his indorsement to it, eh?"

"Precisely," nodded Mr. Salter.

"You mustn't do it," ejaculated the cashier, with a note of fear in his voice.

"Mustn't, eh?" retorted Mr. Cutler, with a dry laugh. "Why not? You've had three months, haven't you, in which to pay the note, or at least make some kind of a substantial showing? You've done neither. When we called your attention to it you put us off with excuses. Well, we've stood your excuses as long as we intend to. Haven't we, Salter?"

"We have," coincided his partner.

"Therefore we propose to collect the note at once. When the principal can't meet his obligation the indorser must make good. Isn't that so, Salter?"

"Most decidedly," nodded his companion.

"Therefore, to-morrow we'll make it our business to interview Mr. Hewes. If it will make it any easier for you, Mr. Briggs, you had better let him know what our intentions are."

A worried, hunted look flashed from the cashier's eyes.

It was clear that the plan of action outlined by the two gentlemen concerned him not a little.

"Isn't there any inducement I can offer you to defer your visit to Mr. Hewes?"

"I mentioned the alternative when we first sat down at this table; but, according to your statement, it seems to be impossible for you to meet it," said Cutler.

"You mean that if half the money be paid to-morrow—"

"With a suitable guarantee that the balance shall be forthcoming on the first of the month, we'll hold off," interrupted Mr. Cutler, briskly.

"Give me until this time to-morrow to try and meet your demand."

"I think we may do that. What do you say, Salter?"

"Whatever you say goes, Cutler," nodded Salter.

"Very good. You heard what Mr. Salter said, Briggs? We will meet you here this time to-morrow; that is," consulting his watch, "half-past four. If you make good, that will satisfy us; if not, we'll have to call on Mr. Hewes the day after. That's fair enough, isn't it, Briggs?"

"It is as much as I can expect, I suppose," he replied, without any enthusiasm.

"Precisely," replied Mr. Cutler. "As much as you are entitled to expect after the unbusiness-like way you have treated us. Have another drink, gentlemen."

The waiter was summoned and another round ordered.

While they were waiting for the liquid refreshment the three men were silent, the cashier seemingly lost in thought.

"In case I should find it impossible to get the money to-morrow, would you take five \$1,000 railroad bonds as security for this debt?" asked Briggs, at length.

"Five \$1,000 railroad bonds, eh? What is the name of the road, and what is their market value?"

"Illinois Western. Market value \$1,100."

"I thought you said you didn't have a dollar you could call your own?" replied Mr. Cutler, suspiciously.

"I haven't, but I could borrow the securities for a while."

"Oh, that's it, eh? Well, I don't fancy that arrangement at all. Do you, Salter?"

"Hardly, unless—"

"Unless what, Salter?"

"We can acquire the right to sell the bonds on the first of the month if Mr. Briggs failed to redeem them on that date."

"Hum! I am afraid Mr. Briggs could not meet that requirement."

"Instead of selling them, couldn't you hypothecate them for the \$5,000 on the first, and give me, say, three months longer in which to redeem them?" asked Mr. Briggs, eagerly.

Mr. Cutler looked at his partner in a peculiar way, and Mr. Salter seemed to understand the look.

"Look here, Briggs," said Mr. Cutler, sharply, "do you intend to borrow those Illinois Western bonds from the safe in your office?"

The cashier started and looked guilty.

"I hope you don't mean to insinuate," began Briggs.

"That you intend to appropriate bonds belonging to Mr. Hewes? Oh, of course not," sarcastically. "We wouldn't think of such a thing, would we, Salter?"

"Not in the least," replied Mr. Salter, with an intelligent wink.

"I might also remark, while we're on the subject," continued Mr. Cutler, "that we did not even suspect that Mr. Hewes' indorsement on Mr. Briggs' note might not be genuine, either. Did we, Salter?"

"Of course not. Why should we? Mr. Briggs wouldn't be so foolish as to give us a note with a forged indorsement, because—"

"It's a State prison offense. Exactly. Well, Salter, I think we can afford to take the bonds, say with \$1,000 cash as a guarantee of good faith on the part of Mr. Briggs. We must also have a note from him, describing the bonds, and stating that they are his property. A mere matter of form to protect ourselves in case—"

"There should be any question," interjected Mr. Salter.

"About the bonds hereafter. Exactly," concluded Mr. Cutler, looking at Briggs.

"I'll agree to the conditions," replied Mr. Briggs.

"Very well. I think that concludes the matter for the present," said Mr. Cutler. "What do you think, Salter?"

"I agree with you," answered his partner.

The three men rose and walked out of the cafe.

"Well," asked Bob Davis of Phil, "what did you learn?"

"That a certain person is a bigger rascal than I took him to be."

"Is that all? I thought you were picking up a tip on the market."

"No. Come. Are you going?"

"Sure," replied Bob Davis, and they left the cafe and walked up to Broadway, where they parted, Davis taking the subway, while Phil boarded a Broadway surface car.

CHAPTER IV.

PHIL BRISTOW IS ACCUSED OF THEFT.

On his way uptown in the car Phil pondered over what he had heard in the cafe.

One thing seemed clear to him—that Mr. Briggs owed Messrs. Cutler & Salter the sum of five thousand dollars, and that they were trying to make him ante up.

Who were Cutler and Salter?

And how came Mr. Hewes' cashier to owe them five thousand dollars?

They might be stock brokers, but Phil did not believe they were.

He could not imagine how Mr. Briggs got into their debt for such a large sum.

Phil had learned another thing—that the cashier played cards for money.

That fact did not particularly surprise him.

It was in line with Mr. Briggs' character as he had summed it up.

What really interested him was the cashier's offer to put up the five one thousand dollar Illinois Western bonds as security for the money he owed Cutler and Salter, after making the admission that he was not worth a cent he could call his own.

Of whom was he going to borrow those bonds?

What good friend did he have who would be so obliging as to loan him the use of five Illinois Western securities whose market value was five thousand five hundred dollars all told?

To say the truth, the ironical remarks made by Mr. Cutler gave Phil a strong suspicion that Mr. Briggs really meant to get those particular bonds from the office safe.

Probably he knew they would not be called for until interest day came around again; or, at any rate, he was willing to take chances that they would not be wanted within three months.

As for the note he had given Cutler and Salter bearing Mr. Hewes' indorsement, he was inclined to believe that the indorsement was a forgery.

Well, after all, it was none of his business that Mr. Briggs owed Cutler and Salter money, and it was the cashier's own funeral if he had given his two creditors a note with a forged indorsement.

But if Mr. Briggs intended to take five bonds belonging to Mr. Hewes from the safe and practically hypothecate them, without his employer's knowledge or permission, for the purpose of canceling or securing his debt, that was another matter entirely.

Was it not Phil's duty to give Mr. Hewes an inkling of the situation?

"I think I ought to," he mused, "but it's rather a delicate job to get around. What evidence have I to offer to substantiate such a serious charge against the trusted cashier of our office? Not a particle. Mr. Briggs' denial would go further than my statement. It would be better to wait until the cashier had presumably abstracted the bonds from the safe. Then I could tell Mr. Hewes in confidence what I overheard in the cafe. If on investigation the bonds were found to be missing there would appear to be some ground to suspect Mr. Briggs of having taken them for the purpose indicated. By hunting up Cutler and Salter the matter could doubtless be brought home to the cashier. That will be the better way. I am beginning to think that I see Mr. Briggs' finish."

Next day Phil took a great interest in the ticker when-

ever he got a chance to look at it, but he was rather disappointed to find no change yet for the better in Great Western stock.

There were only two or three quotations of the stock on the tape all day for comparatively insignificant blocks of shares, from which Phil concluded that the syndicate brokers had not yet started in to buy.

He reported the fact to the stenographer, and said he hoped that there would be some indication of life in the stock on the following day.

He had some idea of going up to the cafe around four o'clock, with the object of witnessing, if possible, the second interview between Mr. Briggs and his two creditors, but he was prevented from doing so by Mr. Hewes sending him up-town on an errand.

Soon after ten next morning Phil noticed a number of sales of Great Western recorded on the tape.

"I believe the stock is getting busy at last," he said, in a tone of great satisfaction.

He immediately ran into the counting-room and told Miss Carpenter.

"It's gone up about half a point already, which looks encouraging," he said to her.

She smiled, but, as she was very busy, they could not converse on the subject.

During the rest of the day Phil kept his eye on the tape whenever the opportunity offered, and when the Exchange closed for the day Great Western was up to 50 1-2.

A great many shares of the stock had changed hands during the seven-hour session, and Phil was satisfied that the boom in which his and Miss Carpenter's hopes were centered was really on.

When Mr. Hewes was putting on his hat and coat to go home that afternoon Phil entered his private room.

"Can I speak to you a few moments, sir?" he asked.

"Certainly, Phil. What is it?"

The boy at once told him the particulars of the interview he had witnessed in the cafe between Mr. Briggs and Messrs. Cutler and Salter.

"You will understand, I hope, sir, that I am bringing no charge against Mr. Briggs. After thinking the matter over I concluded that it was my duty to let you know about it. I don't even know that you have any Illinois Western bonds in your safe, sir."

"I haven't," replied Mr. Hewes. "A week ago I received ten Illinois Western bonds from a customer as security for a loan. I handed them to Mr. Briggs to put in the safe overnight. Next day I took them to my safe deposit box in the Washington vaults, where they are now."

"Then I suppose it could not have been five of those particular bonds that Mr. Briggs referred to when he told Mr. Cutler that he intended to borrow them from a friend?"

"Hardly," replied the broker, with a smile.

"There is one other thing: Mr. Briggs gave the two men a note for five thousand dollars indorsed by you——"

"What's that?" asked Mr. Hewes, quickly; "a note indorsed by me! Impossible! I have made it a rule since I went into business—twenty-five years ago—never to indorse a note under any circumstances. It is a fatal practise."

"But the note in question, sir, is presumed to be indorsed by you, though I have an idea that the two gentlemen who hold it have a suspicion that your signature is not genuine."

Mr. Hewes looked a bit startled at this information.

If his cashier had actually given a note to secure the payment of a certain debt, and that note bore his signature across its back as an indorsement, then Mr. Briggs must have placed it there himself, which act was to all intents and purposes a forgery, whether it resembled his handwriting or not.

This was a very serious matter for him to consider.

Mr. Briggs had been a trusted employee for many years, and now to find that he might be guilty of such a piece of trickery as that was not at all pleasant for the broker to contemplate.

He paced his office for a minute or two with a corrugated brow, and Phil waited patiently to be either examined further on the matter or dismissed.

At length Mr. Hewes paused before him.

"Of course you have said nothing about this to any one, Phil?" he said anxiously.

"Certainly not, sir."

"Very well. That will be all now."

Mr. Hewes left the office, and, instead of going straight home, he went to his safe-deposit vaults and took out the package supposed to contain the ten one-thousand-dollar Illinois Western bonds.

When he examined it he discovered that six of the bonds were missing, and their places supplied with folded sheets of thick blank paper, so arranged as to match the genuine bonds.

This discovery gave the broker a great shock—not so much on account of the money involved, but because here was almost indisputable proof, when taken in connection with Phil's story, that his cashier was false to his trust.

"It seems evident that he substituted the paper for the six bonds during the short interval that the securities were in his charge," said Mr. Hewes to himself. "Being pressed for the payment of a debt he could not settle honestly, he yielded to temptation and embezzled the bonds. It may be that he eventually intended to return the bonds to me before the six months expired when the loan, on which these bonds were deposited as security, became due and payable; but such a purpose does not excuse his unwarrantable act, nor does the fact that he hoped to take up his own note in the course of time justify the forging of my name to it as an indorser."

Mr. Hewes decided that before he demanded an explanation of his cashier he would hunt up Messrs. Cutler & Salter, who, to his certain knowledge, were not Wall Street brokers.

However, it appeared that they were conducting some kind of business in the financial district, and next morning he instituted inquiries among his acquaintances.

At the Exchange he met a broker who knew both Cutler and Salter.

"They are the managers of the Manhattan Brokerage Company, No. — Broadway," said the broker to Mr. Hewes.

"That is a bucket-shop," said Mr. Hewes.

"Exactly. One of the notorious Clifford string of similar shops that fleece the unwary largely through the mail. Their advertisements can be seen regularly in all the financial papers, and in the Sunday editions of the big New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other city dailies."

"Thank you, Mr. Pratt," replied Mr. Hewes; "that is all I want to know."

He immediately went to the office of the Manhattan Brokerage Company, but neither Mr. Cutler nor Mr. Salter was visible.

When he returned to his office, about eleven o'clock, Phil had just gone into the counting-room to inform Miss Carpenter that Great Western shares had gone up to 51—an advance of two points above what they had paid for stock.

Hardly had he removed his overcoat before Mr. Briggs presented himself in the private office.

"I regret, Mr. Hewes," he began, "that I have to report to you a discovery I have made. I found a thousand dollars missing from the safe this morning—ten one-hundred-dollar bills that I placed there myself yesterday afternoon."

"Indeed, Mr. Briggs?" replied the broker, hardly manifesting the surprise that the cashier expected him to show. "How do you account for its loss?"

"I am sorry to say that I suspect your messenger, Phil Bristow, of the theft."

"That is a serious accusation. On what grounds do you make it?"

"Soon after opening the safe I went to the washroom. On my return I found the boy coming away from my desk."

"Had he any business to be at your desk, Mr. Briggs?"

"Well, yes; he brought a typewritten statement from the stenographer and laid it on my blotter."

"And is that all the grounds you have for suspecting him of a crime?"

"He had the opportunity to take the money, and I am not at all pleased with his general conduct in the office."

"You have complained of Bristow once or twice before, if I rightly remember, but I could not find that the boy deserved your censure. However, this is a matter that, in justice to himself, he will have to refute in your presence."

The broker rang his bell, and Phil appeared.

"Phil," said Mr. Hewes, "Mr. Briggs says you were at his desk this morning at a time when he was absent in the lavatory."

"Yes, sir," replied the boy, in surprise. "Miss Carpenter asked me to carry a typewritten paper to him. As he was not in his place, I laid it on his desk and came away."

"The safe was open at the time, I believe?"

"Yes, sir."

"Mr. Briggs reports that ten one-hundred-dollar bills have been taken from his cash-box."

"Does he accuse me of taking them?" asked Phil, indignantly.

"Indirectly he does."

"What reason does he give for suspecting me?"

"Merely the fact that you were in a position to get at the safe without his knowledge."

"I think Mr. Briggs has some motive in bringing this charge against me," said Phil, angrily. "He is down on me, anyway, and would like to get me discharged from the office. I don't think he will succeed, though. Probably you had better search me, if you have any doubt as to my honesty."

"If he took the bills, it isn't probable he has them about him at the present moment, or he would not suggest that his pockets be searched," interposed the cashier, with a sneer. "He could easily have hidden them somewhere."

"I dare say you could tell, if you wanted to, where those notes are," said Phil, looking the cashier in the eye.

"What do you mean, you young monkey?" demanded the man, flushing up.

"I mean that if they're missing you took them yourself."

The cashier started back aghast.

CHAPTER V.

THE FINISH OF CASHIER BRIGGS.

"You young puppy!" roared Briggs, starting forward as if he meant to strike the boy; but Mr. Hewes interfered.

"Don't lose your temper, Mr. Briggs," he said. "You had better look over the safe again. Perhaps you placed the money in an inner drawer and forgot the circumstance."

"No, sir; I left the money in my cash-box. I noticed that it was there last night when I closed the safe."

"You are quite positive of that, Mr. Briggs?" asked the broker.

"I am. You ought to have the office searched. It is not improbable that he has the money in his overcoat outside."

"I'll get my overcoat and let Mr. Hewes look through it himself," said Phil. "If the money is found in it, I'll know who put it there."

"Insolent cub!" exclaimed Mr. Briggs, furiously. "Don't let him go for the coat, sir," continued the cashier, turning to the broker. "Have one of the clerks bring it here."

"Very well," said Mr. Hewes. "Call Ashley, and tell him to get it."

The cashier went to the door of the counting-room and gave the order to Will Ashley, who presently brought Phil's overcoat, which Briggs took out of his hand and passed to the broker, while Ashley, suspecting nothing, retired to his desk.

Mr. Hewes, who did not believe the money would be found in the boy's coat, as a matter of form examined the pockets.

Mr. Briggs watched his motions with an air of triumph.

Phil would not have been greatly surprised had the money been found in his overcoat, for he had an idea that this was the culminating point of a conspiracy on the cashier's part to ruin him in his employer's estimation.

No money, however, was found, but from an inner pocket Mr. Hewes drew forth one of the six missing Illinois Western bonds.

The discovery not only astonished him, but Phil as well.

"I suppose you don't know how this came to be in your pocket, Phil, do you?" he asked his messenger.

"No, sir; I haven't the least idea," replied Bristow, promptly.

"I think I handed you a package the other afternoon, Mr. Briggs, containing ten Illinois Western bonds for one thousand dollars each. You put it in the safe overnight, and handed it to me in the morning to put in my safe deposit box," said Mr. Hewes.

"Yes, sir. This seems to be one of them."

"How do you know it is?"

"I don't know, but I suspect——"

"Why should you suspect that it is? You handed me the package of bonds apparently in the same condition that I left it in your care. Had you thought it had been tampered with, you would have called my attention to the fact, wouldn't you?"

"Certainly, sir."

"Then you had no reason to imagine that the package had been opened while in your hands?"

"Not at that time."

"Why now, then?"

"Because you have just found one of the bonds in this boy's overcoat, and he pretends that he doesn't know how it came there."

"Am I to understand that you infer he might have abstracted this bond from the package while it was in your safe in the same way that you have accused him of taking the ten one-hundred-dollar bills?"

"I think there is some ground for suspecting him of having done so."

"So far there is no evidence that I can see that Bristow took either the bond or the money from the safe," said the broker; "but I regret to say there is some evidence pointing to the conclusion that you yourself may have taken not only the money in question, but six of the Illinois Western bonds that were in that package which I gave you to put in the safe overnight."

"Sir!" exclaimed the cashier, in the utmost consternation.

"Do you deny the accusation, Mr. Briggs?" asked Mr. Hewes, sternly.

"Deny it!" gasped the cashier. "Why, of course I deny it. It is perfectly outrageous, as well as ridiculous, to——"

"You have no objection, then, to have the matter gone into?"

"Of course I haven't; but I think it is utterly preposterous to——"

"Say no more, Mr. Briggs, until you have heard the ground on which I base my suspicions. Phil, state for Mr. Briggs' benefit what you saw and overheard in the Broad Street Cafe the other afternoon."

At the mention of the Broad Street Cafe Mr. Briggs gave a gasp of surprise and alarm.

Phil lost no time in detailing the conversation as he had overheard it, and in about the same words he had already repeated it to his employer.

Briggs listened to the disclosure like a man wrestling with some uncomfortable dream.

When Phil had concluded, Mr. Hewes turned to his cashier and said:

"Do you deny or admit the truthfulness of Bristow's story?"

"It's an infernal lie from beginning to end," replied Briggs, hotly.

"Then you were not in the cafe with Cutler and Salter, the managers of the Manhattan Brokerage Company, the offices of which are on Broadway, on the afternoon referred to?"

"I was there with them, it is true, but no such conversation occurred as this young man states."

"You deny that the subject of the conversation was a debt of five thousand dollars assumed to be owing by you to the gentleman in question?"

"I don't deny that I owe them a sum of money."

"Did you give them a note to cover that indebtedness, bearing an indorsement purporting to be my signature?"

"I did not."

"And you did not hand them on the following afternoon five of the Illinois Western bonds, taken from the package I left with you to put in the safe, nor did you give them in addition the ten \$100 bills you have practically accused Bristow of taking from the safe this morning?"

"I did not."

"Very well, Mr. Briggs. I hope you have told the truth, for I shall put a detective on this case at once. I have found that six of the bonds in question are missing from the package. This one I found in Bristow's overcoat appears to be one of them."

"Then it is more than likely he has disposed of the other five," said the cashier, with a vindictive gleam in his eye. "I am sure now that he took the ten bills. The evidence that one bond was in his possession ought to be enough to show you what kind of a boy he is. I should think that my word ought to go further than his with you. I have been in your employ for nine years——"

"We won't discuss the matter further, Mr. Briggs, but let the detectives ferret out the truth. If I am doing you any injustice you shall have ample amends. You may return to your desk, and you, Phil, to your post!"

Mr. Hewes put on his hat and coat again and went out.

He went straight to the Manhattan Brokerage Company, and was so fortunate as to find Mr. Cutler in his private office.

We will not dwell upon the interview that took place between them. It is enough to say that Mr. Hewes learned sufficient to convince him that his cashier was guilty on all counts, and that it was not necessary to call in a detective to probe the mystery.

Mr. Cutler produced the five other missing bonds, which he admitted having received from Mr. Briggs, and handed them over to Mr. Hewes when he demanded them of him, taking a receipt for them.

While he admitted also the receipt of \$1,000 in cash from the cashier, he refused to give it up, and the broker did not press the point.

Mr. Cutler, after showing the note with Mr. Hewes' forged indorsement, declined to give it up, but said he would produce it in court if Mr. Hewes prosecuted the cashier.

In any case he meant to cause the immediate arrest of Mr. Briggs himself for deceiving him and his partner with a note bearing a spurious indorsement.

Mr. Hewes then left the office and was soon after followed by Mr. Cutler, who took himself before a city magistrate and secured a warrant for the arrest of the guilty cashier.

The warrant was handed to an officer to serve.

He did not serve it, however, because he found, on reaching Mr. Hewes' office, what the broker had also discovered on his return—that Murray Briggs had left without giving notice of his intention to do so, and that he had carried with him all the spare funds, amounting to several hundred dollars, that he could lay his hands on.

CHAPTER VI.

GREAT WESTERN PROVES TO BE A WINNER.

As Mr. Hewes could not prove that the money his cashier had paid over to the managers of the Manhattan Brokerage Company had actually been stolen from his safe, he did not attempt to go to law about it.

He was thankful to get the five bonds back without any trouble, and charged the \$1,600 he was out to profit and loss.

That day Great Western closed at 53, and Phil was jubilant when he carried the good news in to Miss Carpenter.

"We are four dollars a share to the good, Ethel," he said, with sparkling eyes. "I think you may as well pick out the new hat and dress you're going to buy with your share of the profits."

"I never like to count my chickens before they are hatched, Phil," she answered laughingly.

"I think there are enough of them hatched already to show that the whole brood is sure to come to life."

"Don't be too confident, Phil," she said, holding up a finger warningly. "Wait until you have closed the deal out. I have seen lots of people talk like you right in this office. Every one of them was sure he was a winner, but inside of twenty-four hours—"

"He was calculating on a steady diet of snowballs, eh?" chuckled the boy.

"I suppose you could put it that way," smiled Ethel.

"It will certainly be snowballs for us if we don't win," said Phil, facetiously, "but I am sure we're going to win—that is, if I don't lose my head and hold on too long."

"Well, I hope you won't lose that valuable part of your person. You wouldn't look well without a head."

"I couldn't get ahead in the world without it, could I, unless I joined a freak show?" grinned the boy.

"By the way, Phil, Mr. Briggs' departure from the office was rather sudden, don't you think?"

"It was rather expeditious."

"Do you know why he left?" she asked, curiously.

"He left because he concluded it wouldn't be healthy for him to stay any longer."

"Why, what do you mean?"

"I mean he's joined the Down-and-Out Club."

"Aren't you provoking, Phil Bristow! Tell me what was the real reason for his leaving so unexpectedly."

"Will you keep it to yourself if I tell you?"

"Of course I will."

Whereupon Phil told her the particulars of the case.

"My gracious!" she exclaimed, when he finished his story. "I had no idea that he was as bad as that."

"He won't bother you with his attentions any more now."

"That is a relief, at any rate. I was getting a little nervous over his persistency. He simply wouldn't take a hint."

"Well, so long as he has taken his departure you needn't care," laughed Phil, walking away.

Next morning there was something doing in earnest around the Great Western standard.

Brokers appeared on the floor with their hands full of orders to buy the stock, and there ensued such a lively scramble for shares that the price soon went up to 55.

This rise evidently came too soon to suit the boomers, for a bear movement was organized to pound it down again, and for the rest of the day the stock fluctuated several points either way, finally closing at 56.

"If I closed our deal in the morning," said Phil to the stenographer that afternoon, "we would more than double our invested capital."

"Do you think of doing so?"

"Not on your life, Ethel. We ought to make as much again. That stock will go to 65 or 70 before the syndicate begins to unload."

"I hope it will, for both our sakes, Phil; but please don't hold on for the last dollar. I've heard that is what ruins half of the small speculators."

"I don't intend to. I'll sell when I see it showing signs of getting topheavy."

Next morning the rush to buy Great Western was greater than ever, so that by noon it was quoted on the ticker at 60.

Just before Phil went out to lunch he shoved a slip of paper on Miss Carpenter's table, which read: "1,000 G. W. 60 1-8."

She read it, and smiled in a pleased way, for she knew it was the latest quotation of a transaction in Great Western which had appeared on the tape.

"I really believe I shall be able to buy that new hat and gown, and have something left over," she said to herself. "If Phil realized now I would be in \$110."

But Phil wasn't thinking of realizing yet, and the stock closed at three o'clock at 64.

It opened next morning at 65, and at two o'clock had reached 72.

Phil had an errand that took him up Nassau street at that hour, and he walked into the little bank that was conducting his investment, in company with several hundred others.

The reception-room was packed, and the interest of the crowd was largely centered on Great Western, on account of its phenomenal rise.

As Phil stood on the outskirts of the mob he saw the boy at the blackboard mark up Great Western at 72 1-2.

"I guess I'd better sell out. It looks risky to hold on much longer."

So he fell in at the end of the line at the window, and when his turn came he produced his memorandum and told the margin clerk to sell out the 20 shares that the bank held subject to his order.

The clerk nodded, and inside of ten minutes Phil and Ethel were out of the market, with nothing to do but figure up the profits of their little deal.

When the young messenger got back to the office again he wrote the following on a slip of paper and dropped it into the stenographer's hand as he passed her table:

"Sold out at 72 1-2. We've made \$330 clear, half of which is yours. You ought to be able to buy two gowns and two hats with that."

Ethel smiled as she read the words.

It was a great relief after all to know that the deal had been successful.

She had been afraid that Phil might hold on too long, and thus ruin their prospects.

But he hadn't, and she was much elated over the satisfactory result.

"Well," said Phil, later on, "what did I tell you? Was there anything the matter with that tip?"

"Not a thing, Phil. I thank you ever so much for persuading me to go in with you. You're the best boy in the world."

"What would you have called me if our luck had run the other way?" he chuckled.

"I shouldn't have blamed you."

"You can gamble on one thing, Ethel. I never would have asked you to risk your fifty dollars on anything that I didn't have good reason to figure as a sure winner."

"I believe you, Phil."

They went to the bridge cars together that afternoon, and Phil insisted on celebrating their good luck with an ice-cream soda.

"Don't spend all your money at once, Ethel," he said, as she bade him good-by. "There may be another tip come my way one of these days, and you'll want to be in on it."

She laughed, and jumped aboard a car, while Phil started for Broadway.

CHAPTER VII.

PHIL'S REWARD.

On the following day Phil received a statement and check for \$330 from the little bank in Nassau street, and he showed both to Miss Carpenter.

"I'll get this check cashed at the first chance and give you your share," he said.

"Thank you, Phil," she replied. "I shall feel quite rich with \$165 in my pocket, all my own."

He got the money when he went to lunch, and brought in word that there was a panic at the Exchange over the sudden slump in Great Western.

Somebody had dumped two blocks of 10,000 shares in quick succession on the market, and the syndicate brokers either couldn't or wouldn't take them, and the price broke at once,

involving hundreds of unwary outsiders in financial trouble. "We got out just in time, Ethel," said Phil. "Quite a bunch are in the soup about this time."

"We may consider ourselves quite fortunate."

"That's right."

Phil put his money in an envelope, addressed it to himself, and handed it to the new cashier to put in the office safe.

On the following Monday two gentlemen, whom Phil recognized as well-known curb brokers, called to see Mr. Hewes.

The boy took their names into the private room, and Mr. Hewes told him to show them in.

Five minutes later a messenger boy entered the waiting-room with a letter for Mr. Hewes, which he said was important, and required an immediate answer.

So Phil carried it in to his employer at once.

As he entered the room he overheard some of the conversation that was going on between the two curb brokers and Mr. Hewes—enough to make him wise to the fact that they had evidently come to borrow on safe Louisville Southern stock.

Apparently they wanted more than Mr. Hewes was willing to give.

As Phil handed the envelope to his employer, one of the brokers said that the prospects were that Louisville Southern would surely keep at or above its present ruling price for some time to come.

At any rate, they only wanted the money for 48 hours, and were willing to pay well for the accommodation.

Mr. Hewes read the note that Phil brought to him, scribbled a reply which he enclosed in another envelope and addressed, and handed it to the boy.

"Look up Louisville Southern on the tape, Phil, and bring me the last quotation, please," he said.

"Yes, sir," answered Phil, hastening out of the room.

He handed the envelope to the waiting messenger and then consulted the tape at the ticker.

He found a record of the sale of 1,500 shares of L. S. at 82 3-8, and he carried the information into the private office.

When he came back to the reception-room he thought he might as well watch and see if any more quotations of L. S. came over the wire.

There was nobody in the room just then but himself, and so he had full swing at the indicator, which was ticking merrily away its metallic song.

As Phil let the tape slide through his fingers into the tall wicker basket alongside the machine, his sharp eyes, accustomed to translate at a glance the abbreviations that indicated the transactions occurring on the floor of the Stock Exchange, saw a fresh quotation of L. S. at 82 1-8.

In another moment came a second one indicating that 2,000 shares had changed hands at 82, a break of half a point from the record he had carried in to his employer.

Phil, however, looked to see the stock recover, instead of which a third quotation came out of the sounder noting the sale of 1,800 shares at 81 7-8.

Another quotation showed that Louisville Southern was still going down, for it indicated a sale at 81 5-8.

"I guess the boss ought to know of this," he said. "It's dropped a point inside of two minutes," for at that moment another sale of L. S. was recorded at 81 3-8.

Phil, however, lingered a few moments longer at the indicator to make sure the slump was not a temporary matter.

In quick succession came quotations in L. S. of 81 1-8, 81, 79 5-8, 79 1-8 and 79.

It looked as if the bears were making a successful raid on the stock, and Phil, tearing off the section of the tape that recorded the last-named figures, started for the boss' room.

Inside, Mr. Hewes had finally yielded to the persuasive arguments of the two brokers who wanted money so badly that they were willing to pay a high rate for the use of a considerable sum for forty-eight hours, and was about to go to his desk to draw his check for the amount of the loan, when Phil dashed into the private room with a section of the tape in his fingers.

"Look, sir!" he cried, laying one hand on his employer's arm, "Louisville Southern has taken a slump."

The wily brokers were thoroughly taken aback.

They had obtained advance information of the impending break in the stock and had visited Mr. Hewes on purpose to raise money on a block of the shares which they had not the right to sell, as it did not belong to them.

They would have succeeded in attaining their object but for Phil's watchfulness at the ticker.

As soon as Mr. Hewes glanced at the quotations on the tape he called the deal off at once, and the disappointed brokers made a speedy exit from his office.

"How came you to watch the ticker, Phil?" asked Mr. Hewes, with a smile.

"Well, sir, as I got the idea, from a few words I heard when I entered your room with that envelope a few minutes ago, that those gentlemen were trying to raise money on some Louisville Southern stock, I thought I'd watch the quotations to see if any lower price than that which I carried in to you appeared, in which even I meant to advise you of the fact, if it amounted to anything. I wasn't looking for a slump, such as occurred; but when it came I lost no time in letting you know how the cat was jumping."

"I am greatly obliged to you, Phil. You have undoubtedly saved me from a considerable loss. I should like to give you a small token of my appreciation of the interest you take in my affairs. Not only in connection with this matter, but also with reference to the case of Mr. Briggs, whom you showed up in his true colors. There is no telling to what extent that man might have robbed me had he remained in my employ, if the temptation to do so carried sufficient weight."

Mr. Hewes took out his check-book and wrote a check for \$500, payable to the order of Philip Bristow, and handed it to him.

"There's a little nest-egg for you, my boy," he said, beamingly. "I give it to you with the greatest pleasure in the world. In addition, I shall raise your wages to \$9. Now, not a word of thanks. You have fully earned this gratification, as the French call it, as well as my high opinion of your services as a faithful employee."

"I am very much obliged to you, Mr. Hewes, and shall do my utmost to prove myself worthy of your good opinion," said Phil.

Then he walked back to his post in time to take in the name of a pompous-looking gentleman who had called to see the broker.

Of course, the present of the \$500 check and the raise in his weekly wage was too good to keep entirely to himself, so at the first chance he communicated the facts to Ethel in strict confidence.

"My, what a lucky boy you are!" she exclaimed. "Allow me to congratulate you."

"Thanks. It is quite a pleasant sensation to feel that one is a capitalist in a small way."

Two days later, when Phil carried a message around to a broker named Hitchcock, in the Mills Building, and was admitted to the gentleman's private office, his sharp eyes noticed a memorandum on the broker's desk, which read:

"Go ahead at once, and take every share that is offered."

That was all, but it set Phil to thinking hard.

It looked to the boy as if some stock, not indicated on the paper, was about to be cornered by a combination of operators, and that Mr. Hitchcock was one of the brokers selected to do the buying at the Exchange.

"If I only knew the name of that stock," mused Phil, as he hurried back to the office with an answer in his hand, "I'd keep my eye on it to see what was going to happen."

It was something of a problem to him how he was going to find out the name of the particular stock in question.

Next morning he was sent with a note to a broker in the Exchange, and while waiting to deliver his message he noticed Broker Hitchcock standing in the shadow of the L. & M. standard, with a ring of other brokers around him, shaking their partially opened fists at him.

Every moment or two he would exchange memoranda with one of the crowd, and then he would raise his hand again and say something.

"I'll bet he's buying for the syndicate now," thought Phil, as he watched him closely. "Now what is he buying—L. & M., or something else?"

At that moment a couple of brokers backed up to the rail near by and one of them remarked to the other:

"Do you think an effort is being made by somebody to corner L. & M.?"

"Why?"

"Hitchcock is taking in all that is being offered at his figures."

"I know that, but I don't see anything significant in that, at least not yet. He may only be trying to fill a big order."

"Truesdale bought in about 12,000 shares before Hitchcock came on the floor, then he disappeared. Looks to me as if they are working together. I'll bet a hat there's something behind their effort to get hold of the stock."

The other broker, however, didn't agree with him, and a moment later they separated.

Phil mentally thanked them for coming within earshot of him, for he had found out through their talk exactly what he wanted to know.

Mr. Hitchcock was buying L. & M. in considerable quantity, therefore that must be the stock that was going to be boomed.

It had opened that morning at 63 and was now ruling at 64.

Phil watched the ticker for the rest of the afternoon until the Exchange closed for the day, and he saw that many thousands of shares had been dealt in and that the closing figure was 64 7-8.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE DEAL IN L. & M.

"Say, Ethel," he said to the stenographer, as he stood by her desk, with his hat and coat on, preparatory to going to his boarding place, "I think I've got on to another good thing in the market."

"Is that a fact, Phil?" she asked, stopping at her work and regarding the boy with much interest. "What is it now?"

He told her about the memorandum he had seen at Mr. Hitchcock's office the day before, and what he had learned at the Exchange that morning.

"The stock has gone up nearly two points to-day. I'm thinking of buying 100 shares on the chance that my pointer is a winner. I've got just enough money to cover the margin at 65."

"Do you really think that you can afford to risk all your money on what you have heard about L. & M.?"

"I'm going to think it over to-night. You'd better do the same, for if I decide to go in I'd like to have you as a partner again. I think you stand a good show of doubling your money."

"I am not so sure of that, Phil," she replied, doubtfully.

"Well, use your own judgment this time, Ethel. I've told you what the outlook seems to be. I consider it worth figuring on. I honestly believe an attempt is on to corner the stock. Whether it will be successful or not is another question."

"I might be willing to risk half my money on ten shares," she said, in a hesitating tone.

"All right. Think it over. If you decide to go in, bring your money down in the morning. I may decide to buy only fifty shares myself, but the chances are I'll go the whole hog, as I look upon the pointer as a good one."

In the morning Phil told Ethel that he was going in on L. & M. to the extent of his pile, and asked her what she was going to do, if anything.

"I only thought of taking ten shares," she said, "but as I brought all my money with me, I think I'll be as much of a sport as yourself, and go in for all I'm worth."

"I see you have good nerve, Ethel, and I guess it's the nervy people who win in this world. Have you got \$130 in that roll?"

"There's \$135."

"Take out a fiver and give me the rest. When the boss comes in I'm going to ask him to let me off for a quarter of an hour. Then I'll run up to the bank in Nassau street and put the deal through. I'll buy 120 shares. That will give you a sixth interest in the transaction."

Phil had no trouble in getting permission to go out on his own hook, and in twenty minutes he was back again at the office, exhibiting to Miss Carpenter the memorandum that showed he was the nominal owner of 120 shares of L. & M. stock, whose present market value was \$7,800, and which, in consideration of the receipt of \$780, the bank agreed to hold subject to his order as long as the margin held good.

There was a lot of trading done that day on the Exchange in L. & M., and the price fluctuated between 63 and 66, finally closing at the latter figure.

When Phil left for home that afternoon he met Bob Davis coming out of the building where he worked.

"How are things coming, Bob?" Phil asked.

"Smooth as velvet. Got any loose money?"

"I can lend you a dollar."

"I don't want to borrow."

"Why did you ask me if I had any loose money, then?"

"Well, I'll tell you. If you could raise about \$75 I could put you onto a good thing."

"What is it?"

"L. & M. stock. I've bought 10 shares at 64. I expect to make \$150 out of it."

"Think it's a winner, eh?"

"I know it is," replied Bob, confidently.

"How do you know?"

"I'm not telling everything," he answered, with a wink. "If you've got \$75 in the bank, draw it out and put it into 10 shares of L. & M., and you'll double your money if you hold the shares for a fifteen-point rise. I'm letting you in on a good thing, Phil, but I don't want you to go and give it away at your boarding-house. I don't believe in throwing pearls before swine."

"Our boarders wouldn't feel flattered to hear that remark."

"Oh, you know what I mean. I don't believe in giving tips to outsiders. You have done me a small favor several times, and I want to reciprocate. See?"

"Thanks, Bob; but I have already bought some shares of L. & M."

"Go on! Have you, really?"

"I have. I got a tip on the stock from a reliable source myself two days ago, and I bought 120 shares this morning."

"You bought how many shares?" asked Bob.

"One hundred and twenty."

"I didn't know you had \$800 of your own."

"I'm not in this deal alone. Miss Carpenter, our stenographer, has an interest in it."

"You don't say. Half and half, I suppose?"

Phil let him think so by keeping silent.

"Well, you're lucky, Phil. You and the typewriter stand to win anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,000 within a week."

"I'm glad to hear it," replied Phil; "but I may not take such a long chance. I don't believe in holding out for the last dollar."

"It's a safe enough risk up to 80, Phil. After that you want to sell out or keep your eyes skinned for trouble."

The boys parted at Broadway, and Phil went home now more easy in his mind as to the rise in L. & M.

Next morning he told Ethel what Bob Davis had said to him, and he added that he guessed that Bob had got his information from a pretty good source.

"My goodness, Phil! If L. & M. really goes up to 80 I'll win \$300," she said, with some excitement in her voice.

"About that; and I'll make something like \$1,500."

"Are you sure, Phil?" she cried, enthusiastically.

"Not too sure," laughed Phil. "Just sure enough."

During the rest of the week L. & M. fluctuated more or less, but always closed at a higher figure.

When the Exchange shut down at Saturday noon the last quotation was 72.

The general tone of the market was bullish, money was easy, and the lambs began to bring their little boodle down to the Street, with the hope that they might be able to beat the game of chance.

Those who had been accommodated with tips on the situation stood to win; the rest would probably leave their money in the different brokers' offices at the end of a week or two.

That's the way things looked when the Exchange opened on Monday.

Everybody looked sanguine.

Phil could read it in the faces of the mob of customers who flocked into Mr. Hewes' office.

They put down their money like old-timers, and fluttered around the ticker for a good part of the day.

Things were on the boom all the week.

The clerks worked overtime in all the offices to keep up with the rush.

Phil used up an extra amount of shoe-leather these days, for he had messages almost without number to carry to all points of the compass.

But you may well believe he kept an eye on the ticker whenever he could get the opportunity, which wasn't as often as he could have wished.

On the following Monday afternoon, about one o'clock, Phil noticed that L. & M. had gone up to 81.

"That's high enough for me," he said. "Now for a chance to order our shares sold."

But he couldn't get a chance to go to the little Nassau street bank, to save his life, until long after the Exchange had closed for the day.

The bank kept its brokerage department open until four,

and just before the door was shut, Phil bounded in and gave his selling order to the clerk.

L. & M. by that time was up to 83, and might be even higher when the Exchange opened in the morning.

At the same time there was always the chance that something might go wrong overnight and the stock decline at the sound of the chairman's gavel.

The bare possibility that something might happen to upset his dream of fortune kept Phil awake half the night.

It was the first attack of "nerves" he had experienced since he went into the deal; and he guessed from the stenographer's manner all the afternoon that she was in the same boat with himself in that respect.

However, nothing happened at the opening of the Exchange.

The whole market continued to wear a prosperous look, and L. & M. went up to 85.

Next day, when he got his statement and accompanying check, he found his shares had been sold at 83 3-8.

His profits amounted to \$1,800, while Miss Carpenter was \$360 ahead of the game, and she was probably the most delighted girl in Wall Street.

CHAPTER IX.

A HARD-EARNED TIP.

Three months had passed away since the fortunate deal in L. & M., and Phil had saved enough out of his wages to make him worth an even \$2,500.

Miss Carpenter could show a bankbook with a credit for \$500, all of which she told Phil she owed to him for taking her in with him in his two lucky deals.

One afternoon, at the beginning of warm weather, when Phil got out of the elevator on the sixth floor of the Mills Building to deliver a message at the office of Deering & Co., he was surprised to see one of the doors opening on the corridor flung wide with a bang and a boy projected through it as if shot from a catapult.

The boy performed a couple of somersaults before he landed with a whack against the opposite wall, while two highly excited gentlemen stood in the doorway and shook their fists at him, at the same time saying things that wouldn't look well in print.

As the unlucky lad picked himself up, and began an examination to see if there was anything missing in his make-up, the gentlemen disappeared, slamming the door after him.

Phil stopped, in his astonishment at the strenuous performance, wondering what sin the boy had committed to entitle him to such rough handling.

He started for the boy, to sympathize with him, when, to his surprise, he saw that it was Bob Davis.

"In the name of creation, Bob, what is the trouble?" he asked, now thoroughly interested in the cause of the predicament his friend was in.

Bob didn't reply for a moment or two.

He was wiping the blood from his mouth and feeling his teeth to see how many, if any, had worked loose.

"What were you fired out of that office for?" asked Phil, again.

Bob tried to grin, but it was a failure.

"Got it in the neck, didn't I?" he replied.

"I should think you did. You must have done something fierce. Those gentlemen looked pretty mad, and they used some pretty strong language, too. What were you up to?"

Bob gave a faint chuckle.

"Yes," he said, with a dismal smile, "I guess they were mad. They acted as if they were."

"What were they mad about? What did you do to them?" persisted Phil.

"Didn't do a thing," replied Bob, making an effort to walk, which was not entirely successful.

"Didn't do a thing?" exclaimed Phil, in astonishment. "And they treated you that way? Come on! You must have done something."

"I was only listening."

"Listening to what?"

"What they were talking about."

"That wasn't a polite thing to do."

"I was after a tip."

"Oh, I see," chuckled Phil. "They were talking confidential business, and you tried to overhear what they said?"

"That's about the size of it."

"I don't wonder they resented it."

"I don't care. I heard all I wanted, anyway. They didn't gain anything by doing me up."

"They got some satisfaction, at any rate."

"They're welcome to it. Does my eye look black?"

"No, but it looks damaged. It's liable to be black and yellow to-morrow."

"How is my nose? It feels bad."

"It's all skinned."

"It must have knocked a hole in the wall."

"The wall doesn't appear to be damaged," smiled Phil.

"How is my left ear? Anything wrong with it?"

Phil shook his head.

"It seems to be whole," he said.

"Feel of my head and see if there are any lumps."

Phil felt of his cranium and pronounced it clear of obstructions.

"That was a fierce shaking-up I got. The worst of it is, I've got to go back. I've got to carry an answer back to my boss. Come in with me, will you?"

"I will, if you wait till I carry this note to Room 905."

"All right. I'll go with you and wait outside."

Bob limped down the corridor like a dog on three legs.

He looked like a wreck, and felt about as he looked.

Phil did not have to wait for an answer to the note he brought to Deering & Co., and presently rejoined Bob.

They walked back to the office from which Bob had been ejected and entered.

The two brokers who had fired the messenger were not in the reception-room, much to Bob's relief.

They were closeted with the broker in his private room.

The office boy of the establishment grinned broadly when he saw Davis.

He had witnessed the fun, as he called it, and it had tickled him greatly, not because he had anything against Bob, but because it was an amusing show.

"What are you grinning about?" asked Bob, sulkily.

"Nothin'," replied the boy, with a snicker.

"Well, don't do it, then. Go in and ask your boss for that answer I'm to carry back with me."

"Why don't you go in and ask him yourself? I think he wants to say something to you."

"Go in and tell him I'm out here waiting for my answer," said Bob.

The boy did so, and came back with word that his boss wanted to see him inside.

Bob looked at Phil with an uneasy expression on his face.

"Those two chaps are there with him. If they should run me out again you'll have to phone for an ambulance."

Phil could not help laughing at the lugubrious expression that rested on his friend's face.

It was clear that he was apprehensive regarding the reception that awaited him in the private office.

"Better face the music, Bob. They may give you a talking-to, but they won't lay their hands on you again. They are probably cooled down by this time."

So Bob mustered up his courage and entered the room.

After the lapse of five minutes he came out with an envelope in his hands.

"They didn't hurt you, I see," said Phil.

"No; they were going to open on me, but as soon as they got a square look at me the whole three commenced to laugh. They laughed so hard I thought they'd burst their suspenders. It just tickled them to see the shape I was in. Finally Mr. Edwards said that he guessed I was punished enough, and that he wouldn't say anything to my boss, as he had intended to do. Then he gave me the letter and said I could go. Never mind! I'll get back at those chaps. I've got the pointer I was after and I'll make a couple of hundred out of it. I'd take a bounce like that every week at the same price."

"If you saw yourself in the glass now you would take that back."

"No, I wouldn't. I'll be all right in a day or two."

"I suppose you'd be willing to sell me a share of that tip, wouldn't you?"

"I'll let you in on it for a hundred cases. I'd give it to you for nothing, but I know you can afford to buy it. This is a sure winner, and is dead cheap at the price."

"I suppose you'll tell me what the tip is and give me a chance to verify it before you will insist on the pay for it?"

"Sure! Your word is good enough. Promise to pay me one hundred dollars if you use it, and it's yours."

"I promise," replied Phil.

"All right. The tip is this: A pool has almost been completed to corner I. & C. shares. Isidor Schoen is to do a part of the buying."

"That's what you overheard those gentlemen talking about, eh?"

"That's right. They talked a lot about it before they got on to me."

"And when they got on to you?"

"Don't remind me of it. It's too unpleasant to think about. It was zip!—across the floor; boom!—through the door, and biff!—up against the corridor wall. It was awful funny—for a spectator. You must have enjoyed it."

"It was rather comical to see the way you came out of the door and across the corridor. I didn't recognize you at the moment—not till I saw your face afterward. How do you feel now?"

"I think I'll survive."

"I think you will, too. Going to a dentist?"

"What for?"

"To get your jaw straightened out."

"Don't get funny. My jaw is all right."

"Better stop in at a druggist's and get a yard or two of court-plaster for your nose."

"Don't you worry about my nose," growled Bob.

"I'm not worrying about it. It's your nose."

"Well, what do you think about the tip?"

"It is probably a good one. I'll keep my eye on I. & C. When it begins to look like business I'll go in as near the ground floor as possible."

"I'm going to buy thirty shares right away and squeeze every cent I can out of it to get hunk for this rough-house treatment I've been up against," said Bob, nodding his head in a determined way.

"If I go in it at all, I'm likely to go to the extent of my pile," said Phil.

"How much is that?"

"Twenty-five hundred dollars."

"I didn't think you had so much. You're quite a capitalist. You could handle three hundred shares, all right."

"What is it ruling at?"

"Around 70."

"I suppose you don't object to me letting my friend Miss Carpenter in on this? She's been my partner in my other two deals."

"Sure not! Take her in again."

"I mean to, if she'll come. Well, here's where I leave you. Better get patched up before you let your boss see your face. What are you going to tell him—that you got run over by an automobile?"

"I'll tell him I got into a row and got done up. That will be the truth, all right, and he won't ask particulars. He'll think I was up against a bunch of tough messengers."

Thus speaking, Bob walked on up Wall Street, while Phil went in the opposite direction.

CHAPTER X.

PHIL GETS INTO TROUBLE.

"I've got another tip, Ethel," said Phil to the office stenographer before he started for home that afternoon.

"You don't say, Phil. You've been quiet on the market question for ever so long—ever since you made that money on L. & M. I was wondering if you'd quit speculating for good."

"Not much. Only lying low on the lookout for a good thing."

"And is this another good thing?"

"I guess it is. I didn't get the tip myself. My friend Bob Davis captured it at the risk of his life."

"At the risk of his life? What do you mean?" Miss Carpenter asked, with a look of interest.

"Well, it will be at the risk of his life if he ever tries it on again with the same brokers."

"You talk in riddles, Phil. Make it clearer."

"Did you see that cannon act in Barnum's Circus some years ago, when a woman was fired from a big gun and she sailed through the air up to a trapeze?"

The stenographer nodded her head.

"Well, my friend Bob gave a very bad imitation of that act when he sailed across the main corridor on the sixth floor of the Mills Building this afternoon. Instead of being shot from a cannon, he was fired out of a door by two very strong and very angry brokers, who caught him in the act of listening to their conversation. He fetched up against the opposite wall with a concussion hard enough to have damaged it if it

hadn't been pretty solid. However, he got the tip he was after, all right, and I've rented it from him for a hundred dollars. Now, if you want to go in with me, I won't charge you a cent for the tip."

"What is the tip?"

Phil told her.

"Well, if you go into it I will," replied Ethel.

"You've got five hundred dollars?"

"Yes."

"How much of it do you want to risk?"

"How much would you risk?"

"I'm going to buy three hundred shares, and that will take nearly all my wad to cover the margin."

"How many shares could I get?"

Phil made a mental calculation.

"At the present ruling price you could get about seventy-five, but I advise you not to go in for more than sixty. That will leave you with about seventy dollars pocket money."

"Shall I bring my money down in the morning?" asked Miss Carpenter.

"Yes. You can put it in the safe, if I don't want to use it for a day or two."

Phil watched I. & C. stock for several days, without observing any change in its price, or any particular activity in the sales.

On the fifth day after Bob got the tip Phil was over at the Exchange soon after ten in the morning, and saw Isidor Schoen, whom he knew by sight, circulating around the floor, buttonholing members and occasionally exchanging memoranda with them.

The messenger suspected that he had started in to buy I. & C., but he couldn't tell for a certainty.

When he got back to the office he took a look at the ticker, and for the first time noted a succession of I. & C. sales at prices from 71 1-8 to 71 7-8.

Phil wanted further evidence that the purchases of that stock were not made simply to fill some large orders for the stock, which being completed, its activity would cease for a while.

He therefore watched the ticker at every opportunity, and saw that I. & C. shares continued to be in demand all day, the price going up 72 2-8.

After some reflection he concluded to buy the three hundred shares he had decided upon, and also sixty shares for the stenographer.

So, about half-past three he went to the little bank and gave an order for three hundred and sixty shares of I. & C. at the market price, which turned out to be 73 when the Exchange opened for business in the morning.

During the day Phil met Bob and found that he had bought thirty shares of the stock at 71 1-2.

He handed him the hundred dollars he had promised to give him if he used the tip, and Bob said he intended to use most of it to buy another ten shares, as he was determined to make all he could out of I. & C. as a salve for the strenuous experience he went through in getting possession of the pointer.

When the chairman's gavel sounded in the Exchange that afternoon I. & C. was going at 75.

Next morning, when Phil started out on his first errand, he observed a crowd gathered in the corridor apparently looking at something in its midst.

"What's the matter?" he asked one of the persons who was stretching his neck to get a view of the cause of the gathering.

"A man has fainted or has got a fit—I don't know which," was the reply.

Phil managed to worm his way into the crowd and found that the fallen man was one of the brokers who had an office on that floor.

Just then the superintendent of the building appeared, and, with the assistance of one of the spectators, carried the stricken broker into his office.

As the crowd began to scatter, Phil saw a dapper-looking young man in the act of taking a watch from the white vest of a portly looking gentleman.

The boy made a jump for the thief and caught his wrist with the watch in his hand.

The light-fingered individual, however, was accustomed to be on his guard at all stages of the game, and, as his right arm was at liberty, he struck Phil a blow in the face, which caused the young messenger to release his grip, and fled down the corridor toward the stairs.

Phil slipped on the marble floor, but was up in a twinkling, just as the gentleman missed his watch.

The boy darted after the crook, just disappearing around the

corner of the corridor, and the stout gentleman yelled "Stop thief!" and started to follow.

That created new excitement on the floor, and by the time Phil was half-way down the stairs half a dozen persons had joined in the pursuit.

The thief in his flight collided with a sanctimonious-looking man clad in black at the foot of the stairs.

He was a collector for one of the foreign missionary societies.

Being somewhat near-sighted, he did not observe the cyclone bearing down on him until too late to avoid a mix-up.

The two performed an impromptu acrobatic act, but the crook, being as agile as a young monkey, quickly extricated himself from the dilemma and dashed through the doorway into Wall Street just as Phil reached the lower corridor.

The messenger, however, saw him turn toward Pearl Street, and rushed after him.

Bystanders stopped and stared at the two fleet runners flying down the street, and could not understand what was the cause of the race until half a dozen persons came rushing out of the Barnum Building, where the trouble originated, and, with shouts of "Police! Stop thief!" followed after Phil.

The crook reached Pearl Street first and darted around a loaded truck that was coming along.

When Phil reached the corner he was vexed to find that half a dozen wagons were following close behind one another.

This blocked his progress long enough to give the thief a great advantage.

He was half a block ahead when Phil started to resume the chase.

Phil only started, though.

A long-legged man ran up behind him, extended his arm and gripped him by the shoulder.

"No you don't, young man. I've got you."

Phil turned and looked at the person in surprised impatience.

"What's the matter with you? Let me go. I'm chasing a thief."

"That's too thin," replied the man, pulling him back to the sidewalk, where he was immediately surrounded by the crowd of pursuers.

"Got him, eh?" cried another man. "Good enough! Here comes the man who was robbed."

The stout man came puffing up to the spot.

"This is the chap who took your watch, isn't it?" asked the man who held onto Phil.

"He's the one," sputtered the victim.

"Search him," suggested one of the crowd.

Phil protested vigorously, declaring they were making a serious mistake and that the real thief was a block away toward Water Street by this time; but his words made no impression on the crowd, while two spectators went through his pockets without result.

"He must have thrown the watch away," said the tall man.

"Look here," cried Phil, "you've just made a big blunder. My name is Phil Bristow, and I'm George Hewes's messenger. I saw the theft committed, and started to catch the fellow, but he struck me in the face and got away. Then I chased him, and your stupidity in mixing me up with him has enabled him to get clean off by this time."

His statement was received with some incredulity, in the face of the fact that the stout man asserted he knew that Phil had taken his watch.

"You're crazy!" replied Phil, in a disgusted tone. "I didn't take your watch, and you haven't any evidence to show that I did."

"You ran away—that's evidence enough."

"I just told you that I ran after the thief."

"That won't go down," said the tall man, taking a fresh hold on the boy's collar.

"Take me back to the Barnum Building, then. The porter or the superintendent will tell you who I am. Or you can take me to Mr. Hewes's office."

"Here's a policeman," said a voice, as an officer was seen approaching the crowd, which by this time had assumed large proportions, at the corner of Wall and Pearl Streets.

When the policeman made his way into the center of the mob he heard the fat man's story, Phil's story, and the remarks of other persons who thought they knew something about the matter.

The officer decided that the boy, who did not look like a sneak-thief, should be allowed to clear himself, if he could, before he would take him to the station.

On the way back to the Barnum Building Phil saw a well-known broker crossing the street to see what was the matter.

The broker knew him well, and the boy called the officer's attention to that fact.

The policeman stopped and beckoned to the broker.

"Mr. Brown, I wish you'd tell these people who I am," said Phil. "I've been mistaken for a thief who stole this gentleman's watch in the Barnum Building. I was chasing the rascal when I was stopped and accused of the crime myself."

The broker readily identified Phil as Mr. George Hewes's messenger, and said he would guarantee that the boy was all right.

"It's evident that a mistake has been made, and I think Mr. Bristow is entitled to an apology. He has suffered considerable unnecessary humiliation, and might reasonably bring an action for damages against the person responsible for the blunder," said the broker.

The stout gentleman said he had never been so sure of anything in his life as that the boy had taken his watch the moment he missed the article and saw the lad run.

However, if he had committed a blunder, he was willing to make any reasonable compensation that was in his power.

"That's all right," replied Phil. "I might have recovered your watch if I had not been stopped. As it is, I guess you'll never see it again."

The crowd, who had been assured of Phil's guilt, were now satisfied that it was all a mistake, and began to make remarks concerning the stupidity of some people.

The officer strolled away, and the mob thinned out, leaving Phil and the stout gentleman by themselves.

"I'm sorry I caused you so much annoyance, young man," he said. "Here is my card. Call and see me. I should like to make you a present of something to compensate you for—"

"It isn't necessary, sir. I'm only sorry that I was prevented from catching the rascal who took your watch."

"Well, I should be glad to have you call and see me some time, anyway."

"I'll keep your card, and will drop in some afternoon after three."

They shook hands, and then Phil went on his way to deliver the message he had started out from the office with.

CHAPTER XI.

THE MAN WHO STOLE THE WATCH

That afternoon there was some little excitement in the Exchange over I. & C.

Quite a number of buying orders came to the surface, and the competition to get the stock caused it to go up to 78.

Then there was an effort made to bear it down, and it was successful to the extent of causing the price to fall back to 74, at which quotation the shorts tried to buy enough in to fill their engagements.

This caused the stock to go up to 75 3-8, and it finally closed at 76 7-8.

"I'm a thousand ahead of the game, so far," said Phil to the stenographer, when he took the final quotation in to Miss Carpenter. "And you're more than \$200 to the good."

"Isn't that fine?" she exclaimed. "I really believe that we're going to make another little coup."

"Of course we are. That's the advantage of speculating with inside information."

Half an hour later Phil was off for the day, and reached for his hat.

When he turned around he saw Bob Davis coming in at the door.

"Hello, Bob! What brought you around?"

"Want to walk up the Bowery with me?"

"Why the Bowery?"

"I bought a pawn ticket for a Standard Dictionary, and I'm going to take it out."

"How much did you give for the ticket?"

"A dollar."

"How much is there on it?"

"Five dollars and a year's interest."

"How much is the interest?"

"A dollar and a half."

"How much is the dictionary worth?"

"Cost \$21, and the fellow I got the ticket from said it was almost new."

"I guess it's in pretty good condition for him to raise \$5 on it. Books are hard things to pawn, I understand. Well, I'll go with you. It's a fine afternoon, and I'd just as soon walk uptown as not."

So the boys walked up Wall Street to Nassau, and up Nassau to Park Row, where several of the big newspapers have their offices facing City Hall Park.

They passed the Brooklyn Bridge entrance and continued on up the continuation of what is now known as Park Row extension.

When they came to a row of one-story shops, Phil paused before one that was occupied as a bookstore.

"Hold on a moment, Bob. I want to get a book to read."

They went inside.

Phil had evidently been there before, for the young fellow behind the desk nodded to him.

"Good-afternoon, Tom," said Phil. "This is my friend Bob Davis. Bob, this is Tom Leonard."

"Glad to know you, Leonard," said Bob.

"Same here," replied Leonard, who was pasting a cover on a paper novel.

"I came in to get a book, Tom."

"Go around and pick one out. There's a lot of 'em on the shelves. What kind of a book do you want?"

"I want the Three Guardsmen."

"I'll get it for you. I've got one good copy here. It will cost you twenty cents. If you bring it back we'll allow you ten cents on it."

"All right; I'll take it. Have you a book on palmistry?"

"Sure. Several of 'em. Here's one for forty cents. You get a quarter back when you return it in good condition."

Phil looked the book over, and concluded that he'd buy it.

"Are you interested in palmistry?" asked Leonard, as he was doing the book up.

"Kind of," replied Phil.

"I don't take much stock in such things, but lots of people buy these books. Say, come to the back of the store, and I'll introduce you to the Professor."

"The professor!" exclaimed Phil.

"Yes. Professor Gregory. He'll read your hand if I ask him to, and it won't cost you a cent. He comes in here occasionally. He's a wonder. He told me lots of things that actually came out just as he said they would."

Phil was interested, so he and Bob accompanied Leonard to the back of the store, where a good-looking young man, with eyeglasses, was looking over a pile of second-hand, cloth-bound books.

Tom introduce Phil and Bob to the Professor.

They found him a very pleasant person to talk to.

"Bristow has just bought a book palmistry. He seems to be interested in the matter. Perhaps you'd like to look at his hand," said Leonard.

Professor Gregory smiled, showing an even row of very white teeth that flashed from beneath his mustache.

"I'll look at your hand, if you like, Mr. Bristow. I don't assume to be an expert. I merely follow it up for recreation. Most people whose hands I've read told me I came pretty near right in my statements. I prefer the science of astrology to that of palmistry. It has a wider scope, and one can learn more from it."

He looked at Phil's hand.

"It looks as if you were an orphan, Mr. Bristow," he began.

"That's right," replied Phil, in some surprise, while Bob gazed open mouthed at the Professor.

"You are engaged in some business where there is a lot of money."

"That's right, too. I work in Wall Street."

"You seem to have a fortunate knack of making money yourself, too. I should think you have been quite lucky in that respect this year."

"That's certainly true," interjected Bob. "He's got you down fine, Phil."

"You've been in trouble, or will be before the week is out, but it will amount to nothing," continued the Professor.

"That's right. I was nearly arrested to-day on the charge of stealing a man's watch."

"You haven't seen the last of the affair. You will make something out of it yet."

"What will I make?"

"I couldn't tell you," answered the Professor. "You may meet the thief and recover the watch."

"Not much chance of that," laughed Phil.

"You can't tell," said the professor in his low voice "There are indications that you may meet with a serious accident before long. However, I can almost promise that you'll make a good deal of money before the year is out. There is a young lady associated with you in the matter. She will also be fortunate with you. It is not improbable that you may marry her some day."

"That's Miss Carpenter," grinned Bob.

Phil blushed as the Professor let his hand drop.

"I'm much obliged to you, Professor Gregory," said Phil.

"You're welcome. I could have told you more exactly if I had your horoscope, say, for the present year."

The boys then left him.

There were several pawnshops nearly opposite Spring Street, and to one of these Bob piloted the way.

They passed through a kind of storm-door and found themselves in an oblong room with a counter running the full length, behind which there were several bright-looking clerks.

There was only one person there at the time the boys entered, a dapper-looking young fellow with a smooth face and ferret-like eyes.

He was arguing with a clerk over the amount of money he wanted on a heavy gold watch.

The moment Phil's eyes rested on him he recognized him.

He was the crook who had stolen the stout gentleman's watch in the Barnum Building that morning.

CHAPTER XII.

PHIL IS WATCHED AND CHAINED

The fellow looked up and, encountering Phil's eyes, the recognition was mutual.

Then the rascal grabbed the watch from the counter and made a break for the door.

But he wasn't quick enough to elude Phil, who grabbed him by the arm and called on Bob to help him secure him.

There was a mix-up in a minute, in the midst of which the clerk who had been waiting on the crook jumped over the counter and started to interfere.

"He's a thief," said Phil, looking up, for he and Bob had the dapper young man down on the floor. "He stole that watch from a gentleman in Wall Street this morning."

"Are you a detective?" asked the clerk, in surprise.

"No. But I've got this chap all right, just the same. Telephone for a cop."

The proprietor of the shop came out of his private office and inquired into the cause of the disturbance.

He was soon satisfied that Phil's story was straight, for the dapper young man had many of the ear-marks of a crook upon him.

A clerk was directed to assist the boys in holding the prisoner, and a policeman was sent for.

When he arrived he arrested the thief and took him to Police Headquarters in Mulberry Street, Phil and Bob going along.

Phil told his story to the officer in charge of the station, and produced the card of the gentleman to whom the watch belonged.

He was telephoned for and came up.

He recognized his property, and the crook was sent to the Tombs, where he was locked up.

The stout gentleman, whose name was Darley, was anxious to learn how the thief had been caught.

Phil told him how he had recognized the fellow in the pawnshop, and, with the help of his friend, had captured him.

"You're a pretty smart boy, Bristow," said the stout man, smilingly. "It was a most unfortunate error that caused me to charge you with the taking of the watch. I shall certainly insist on making you a handsome present for recovering my timepiece. I wouldn't knowingly have lost it for five times its value, for it was presented to me years ago by an old and cherished friend, now dead."

"I am very glad that you will get it back after the police have no further use for it in connection with the thief," said Phil.

The stout gentleman took a car uptown, while Phil and Bob returned to the pawnshop to get the dictionary.

Of course, the story of the capture of the thief who had stolen Mr. Rufus Darley's watch in the Barnum Building was duly chronicled in the newspapers next morning, and Phil Bristow's name, and Bob's as well, appeared in cold type.

Phil was given the credit for the capture, and the incident of the preceding morning, when he himself was chased and then held up as the thief, thereby affording the crook all the chance he wanted to make his escape, was also described, with such embellishments as the ubiquitous reporter is accustomed to garnish his narrative when he gets the space in which to spread himself.

Mr. Hewes read the account at breakfast, and when he reached the office he sent for Phil and congratulated him on what he had done.

Ethel Carpenter read the story on the cars as she was on her way to work from her aunt's home in Brooklyn, and she

also had something complimentary to say to Phil as soon as she met him in the office.

All the clerks had read the paper before they arrived, and each stopped to shake hands with Phil and tell him what a clever fellow he was.

During the morning several brokers who knew Phil well stopped him on the street and had something nice to say on the subject.

At eleven o'clock Mr. Darley called at the office to go with him to the Tombs, according to directions they had received from the police.

The dapper young man, looking much worse for a night in a cell, was brought up for examination in the police court.

Phil gave his testimony as chief witness; Bob testified that the watch which was identified by Mr. Darley was the same he had seen offered for pawn by the prisoner; the pawnbroker's clerk gave similar evidence, and then a detective from Headquarters identified the prisoner as a well-known sneak thief, whose picture was in the Rogue's Gallery.

The magistrate asked the crook if he had anything to say, and when he hadn't, remanded him pending the action of the Grand Jury.

The fellow was subsequently tried on a charge of grand larceny and sent up the river for four years.

When Phil got back to the office the first thing he did was to look at the ticker to find out what had been doing in I. & C. stock.

The price had gone up to 79, and lots of shares had changed hands during the morning.

There was renewed excitement around the I. & C. standard on the following morning, when the shares opened at 81.

At eleven o'clock a scene of pandemonium existed on the floor.

The roar resembled that of Niagara Falls.

The demand for I. & C. was greater than the supply, for those who had the stock held on to it in expectation of realizing a higher figure.

The result was that the stock didn't stay within hailing distance of 81 long, but went bounding upward toward the 90s.

At half-past twelve Phil saw a quotation on the tape of 2,000 I. & C. at 88, and he carried the news to Ethel.

At two o'clock it had reached 90, and Phil decided to sell out.

He managed to get his order in at the bank by 2.30, by which time the shares had gone up another point.

His and Miss Carpenter's combined stock was sold like hot-cakes at 91 3-8, fifteen minutes before the Exchange closed.

The statement next day showed that the stenographer had cleaned up over \$1,000, while Phil's profits amounted to about \$5,300.

That day Phil received a telephone message from Mr. Darley calling him over to his office on a matter of importance.

Phil said he would be there at four o'clock.

At that hour he went over to the building where the stout gentleman had his office, wondering what he wanted to see him about.

"Glad to see you, Bristow," greeted Mr. Darley. "Take a seat. How do you like my den?"

"It's a very nice and comfortable one."

"I think it is. I suppose you want to know why I sent for you?"

"I suppose you'll tell me when you get ready."

"I'm ready now. I sent for you because I want to make you a little present."

"A present?"

"Yes. A sort of substantial recognition of your efforts to get my watch back, which in the end resulted successfully. There you are. Open that box."

Phil opened it and found a handsome watch and chain.

His monogram was engraved on the inside, and also an inscription with the date and the donor's initials.

Phil was both surprised and delighted with his present and so expressed himself, and half an hour later he took his leave.

Phil and Ethel, though out of the market, watched with considerable interest the great battle in I. & C., which was still on.

It continued three days longer, and the price went as high as 96.

Then the decline set in, but there was no panic, as most of the brokers had discovered the situation in time.

It was the outsiders, as usual, who lost most of the money, which went into the coffers of the members of the syndicate and fattened their already large fortunes.

Bob Davis was lucky enough to sell out near the very top, and cleared a profit of about \$900.

He remarked to Phil that he was ready now to take another razzle-dazzle bounce at the same profit.

CHAPTER XIII.

PHIL GETS A TIP ON D. & P.

After the excitement of the I. & C. boom had died out the stock market became rather quiet.

There was nothing doing to speak for several weeks during the summer.

Brokers went to the seaside or the mountains to visit their families, some to remain away for a month, others merely to spend Saturdays and Sundays.

Clerks and stenographers also began to drop out of the Street for a week or two vacation at some cheap country boarding house.

Ethel Carpenter, with a \$1,500 bank account, felt she could indulge in all the summer finery she wanted.

Some of the airy gowns she now wore to the office fairly took the breath away from the junior clerks.

As Phil Bristow appeared to be the whole thing with the pretty and piquant stenographer, the other chaps began asking him whether Miss Carpenter had lately got a legacy, for in no other way could they account for the style the girl was now putting on.

"She's the swellest-looking typewriter in the Street," remarked Will Ashley one day to Phil. "You haven't heard her say that she's been left any money, have you?"

"No," replied Phil, shaking his head. "I haven't heard her say anything about a legacy."

"Perhaps she's been saving her money all along and has now taken a notion to blow herself to a lot of glad rags on purpose to make our eyes bulge."

"Perhaps she has," chuckled Phil, who was the only one in the office who knew how much money Miss Carpenter really had, and how she came by it.

"Maybe her idea is to make the other girls in the building jealous."

"Maybe it is," answered Phil, with twinkling eyes.

"That's just like a woman, isn't it?"

"I don't know. I'm not an expert on the subject."

"Well, I've got three sisters, and nothing pleases them better than to get the bulge on their lady friends in the way of clothes."

"Is that a fact?" laughed Paul.

"It is a fact. And then I hear them talk and criticise the hats, gowns, and other paraphernalia of those they know; and many they don't know. I tell you I've got the girls down fine," nodded Ashley, with a wise look.

"I'll have to ask Miss Carpenter if she's guilty of the charge," grinned Phil.

"Don't let her know that I said it, or she'll be down on me like a cartload of bricks."

"Don't worry, Will. I'll tell her I'm just looking for information."

"She won't make any admissions. Girls never do. You might as well save your breath. In my opinion a woman is a walking enigma. She's got as many sides as a cut diamond. After you have studied her for a lifetime you discover there is still something that you haven't learned."

"Then she must resemble the stock market; for you can study that daily until you are gray-headed, and when you think you know it all, you're just as liable to go broke on some deal as if you were the most confiding lamb that enters Wall Street. George E. Emmet is an example for you. After bucking against the bulls and bears alike for over forty years, and accumulating a snug fortune, he lost every dollar he had last fall in the sudden slump of Tennessee Central."

"That's right, he did. Stock gambling is the biggest game of chance in the world, and getting married to the right girl is the next."

"Oh, come off! You're too hard on the girls," objected Phil.

"If you had three sisters, and were as old as me, you'd think differently."

"Old as you? Why, you aren't so ancient."

"I'm twenty-one."

"Well, I'll be twenty-one in less than three years, if I live so long," laughed Phil.

"Say, old man," said Will, suddenly, "have you heard anything from your former cashier?"

"Do you mean Mr. Briggs?"

"Yes."

"Mr. Hewes didn't follow him up, but he got into trouble on his own hook in Chicago."

"What happened to him?"

"He was arrested for trying to pass a worthless check for \$1,000, and put in jail. Lately, I saw in the paper that he had been tried, convicted, and sent to the State prison for five years. That settles him for some time to come."

"I guess it does. Seems to me it was luck for Mr. Hewes that he found the man out as soon as he did."

"That's what I think. I have heard of cashiers who have systematically robbed their employers for years before they were found out."

"How much did Mr. Hewes lose?"

"Something less than \$2,000."

"He got off cheap. Well, so long. I'll see you to-morrow, perhaps."

The next week Miss Carpenter got her two weeks' vacation, and she left for some small town up the State to visit her folks.

Phil was gallant enough to escort her to the Grand Central depot and see her off.

The opportunity to do this showed that work wasn't very brisk at the office.

"I shan't sleep a wink while you're away," he said, as they sat in the station waiting for the Chicago express to be made up.

"Why not?" she laughed.

"For fear you may meet some fellow you'll learn to like better than me."

"The idea!" she exclaimed, with a little blush.

"That's right," chuckled Phil. "I wouldn't want to lose you for a farm."

"What kind of a farm?" she asked, with a dancing eye. "Some farms up our way you couldn't give away if you tried your best to do so."

"Call it a gold mine, then."

"Well, there are gold mines out West that are not worth their salt."

"That's where you're wrong, Ethel. When a gold mine peters out the owners often 'salt' it to get rid of it at a profit."

Just then the doorman announced that passengers bound for Albany, Buffalo, and Chicago could board their train, so Miss Carpenter bade Phil good-by and started for the platform outside.

While Miss Carpenter was away Mr. Hewes employed one of the assistants of a public stenographer who had an office in the building.

The young lady's name was Miss Emmett.

She was short and stout, and more than ordinarily pretty.

She was a wonderfully good-natured girl, and had a laugh that Phil was willing to bet couldn't be duplicated in Wall Street.

She and the young messenger struck up a great friendship, while the other employees looked on and grinned.

"I'll tell Miss Carpenter about you when she comes back," said Will Ashley.

"About what?" asked Phil.

"The way you are making up to the new typewriter."

"Pooh! Tell her. That doesn't worry me."

"Are you going to shake Miss Carpenter for Miss Emmett?"

"Not on your life."

"Then you oughtn't to be so sweet on the new girl."

"I'm only polite to her."

"You don't have to hang around her desk half the day simply to be polite."

"Nothing else to do. It's lonesome out in the reception room."

"Why don't you talk to me, then?"

"That's what I'm doing."

"I mean oftener."

"Your time is valuable."

"So is Miss Emmett's."

"She can talk and work at the same time. Besides, she's got nothing to do more than half the time. If I wasn't around she might fall asleep."

Just then the cashier called Phil, and sent him out for some stamps.

Next morning he was talking to Miss Emmett, as usual, when she surprised him by saying:

"What is D. & P. selling for now, Mr. Bristow?"

"D. & P.? I'll find out."

He got a morning paper, and looking up the market quotations, found that it was going at 60.

"Thank you. Will you do me a favor?"

"Sure thing."

"I want you to go to the little bank on Nassau Street and buy me 100 shares on margin."

"One hundred shares!" almost gasped Phil. "Why, it will take \$600 to cover the margin."

"Yes, I know," she replied, sweetly. "Here's the money," and she handed the boy six \$100 bills.

"Are you in earnest, Miss Emmett?"

"Money talks, doesn't it?" she laughed.

"That's what it does, and a universal language that everybody understands. It is none of my business, of course, but are you working on a tip?"

"What makes you think I am?"

"I just imagined you might be."

"Well, if you won't say anything about it, I'll tell you what the tip is."

"I'll be as mum as an oyster," answered Phil.

"A broker for whom I do work occasionally, and who gave me a tip once before on which I made \$400, met me last night as I was going home, and told me that a corner was about to be formed in D. & P., to control the shares, pending the public announcement of the consolidation of another road with it. He told me to buy as much of the stock as I could put up the margin for, and I am going to do it."

"And may I use the tip myself?"

"Yes, if you can; but you mustn't sell it, nor tell any one else about it."

Phil promised, and when he bought the 100 shares for Miss Emmett he bought 1,200 for himself, and then lay back on his oars to watch the course of events.

CHAPTER XIV.

PHIL MAKES A BIG HAUL

A whole week went by, and Miss Emmett's last day in the office was close at hand before there was any sign of a movement in D. & P.

In fact, the market had been practically dormant all summer, and it was the exception, not the rule, when a stock began to attract especial notice.

Phil had watched the ticker with his old-time alertness, having plenty of chance to do it; but though he noticed a great many sales of the stock in question scattered along the tape, the price did not advance at any time more than a point, and sometimes fell back to 60 again.

But one morning the market woke up and the brokers began to get busy.

The news that M. & N. had come under the control of the D. & P. interest was made public and confirmed.

Immediately there was a rush made by the traders to buy stock of the latter road.

Then the fact developed that the shares were scarce as hen's teeth.

Whoever had any of it held on to it, for they realized that they had a good thing.

All day long the brokers scurried around the Street to locate a seller, but in vain, while as high as 70 was offered, with no takers, before the board closed.

Next day it opened at 72 1-8, and then rapidly mounted to 75.

Phil felt dancing a Highland-fling.

"Gee! That was a fine tip you gave me, Miss Emmett," he whispered in her ear.

"I should think so," she replied. "I've made \$1,000 already. How much did you buy?"

Phil looked at her, and debated whether he should tell her the exact truth.

Finally he decided that he would.

"I'll tell you if you promise me not to say a word about it to a living soul. I kept my word in regard to your tip."

"Of course I promise," she replied, thinking that maybe he had bought ten, or possibly twenty shares.

"I bought 1,200 shares."

Miss Emmett nearly fainted.

"Twelve hundred!" she exclaimed. "Why, where——"

"Did I get the margin?" he interrupted. "Easy enough. I had a certificate of deposit for \$7,700 on the Nassau Street Bank in our office safe when you were so good as to hand me the pointer. I put that up."

"Why, I had no idea that you were worth money," she said, looking at him in a new light.

"You'd have given me the tip just the same, wouldn't you, if you had known I was worth so much?"

"Yes, of course. Dear me! I'm awfully surprised. Messenger boys, as a rule, do not own much money."

"There are exceptions to every rule, and I'm one of them."

After that Miss Emmett regarded Phil with an increased amount of respect.

Possibly she began to make plans for the future with reference to Phil.

If she did they never came to anything.

That afternoon the Exchange was wildly excited over the rise in D. & P.

Some sales were made at 80, and the stock closed finally at 83.

The excitement was still greater in the morning.

Brokers who had been out of town on vacation came rushing back in a sweat, and plunged into business with their old-time activity.

Between the weather, which was hot, and the uproar on the Board, which was hot, too, collars wilted in a quarter of an hour, and shirts became like damp rags.

D. & P. still continued to go up, up, up, until it reached 90.

Half the brokers believed it would go to par, but the more prudent ones now began to unload, as the syndicate probably was doing, for the shares were no longer hard to get.

When Phil saw that the sales were becoming uncommonly numerous he rushed upstairs to the public stenographer's office and interviewed Miss Emmett, who had gone back there on Monday.

She told Phil she was just thinking of selling, as she had received a note from the broker who had given her the tip advising her to get out at once.

"That's what I'm going to do. Give me an order on the bank to sell your shares, too, and I will put it in with my own."

She wrote it out and handed it to him.

Then he started for Nassau Street as if the fate of the nation depended on his speed.

There was a crowd in the waiting-room, and a line at the margin clerk's window that held him back twenty minutes.

But he reached the goal at last.

"I want you to sell my 1,200 shares of P. & D. at once," he said to the clerk.

The young man nodded.

"And here is an order from the young lady for whom I bought 100 shares to sell hers, too."

"All right," replied the clerk.

The orders were telephoned to the bank's brokers, and in a quarter of an hour the 1,300 shares were bought in by some broker acting for a customer, and the price that Phil and Miss Emmett got was 90 7-8.

Phil went back to the office and put in his spare moments figuring up how much he had made.

He found that he had cleared a little over thirty-six thousand dollars.

"Glory hallelujah! I'm worth forty-four thousand dollars. Who says I ain't a capitalist!"

Miss Emmett made thirty-six hundred dollars, but, though she was pleased to death over the fact, she didn't go into convulsions over it.

"It's a dead shame you wasn't in the deal, Ethel," Phil said to Miss Carpenter when he showed her his big check next day. "You would have made over seven thousand dollars."

"It can't be helped," she replied regretfully. "How did you get the tip?"

"That's one of the few secrets I can't tell you. The person who gave it to me made me promise not to say a word about the matter. Of course, now that it is all over, she——"

"She!" exclaimed Ethel, with a look of the green-eyed monster in her eyes. "So it was a she, Mister Philip Bristow!"

"Dear me!" cried Phil, in great confusion. "I didn't want you to know that!"

"You didn't?" she flashed, almost resentfully. "I dare say she was very pleasant company for you while I was away. You were not going to sleep a wink at all while I was out of New York. Of course not! You wouldn't lose me for a farm—or perhaps it was a gold mine. Oh, you're like all the men——"

"I'm not a man yet, Ethel."

"Don't you call me Ethel any more. My name is Miss Carpenter."

"Oh, come, now, Ethel, you're not real mad, are you?"

"Mad? Of course I'm not mad. Why should I be mad?" she asked, with flashing eyes. "You aren't worth getting mad over. You're a mean, deceitful boy, and I don't intend to speak to you any more. So there!"

The stenographer got up and ran into the private office.

"Gee!" exclaimed Phil. "She is mad, for a fact. How am I going to square myself?"

Phil scratched his head in a perplexed way and returned to his post outside.

CHAPTER XV.

PHIL MEETS WITH AN ACCIDENT.

There was a suspicious redness about the stenographer's eyes when she returned to her machine.

It was the first falling-out she and Phil had ever had.

She made her fingers fly on her work and tried to forget all about it.

Phil did not show up in the counting-room again until after his lunch.

Then he walked through to the washroom.

On his way he stopped and had a talk with Will Ashley.

Then he plucked up courage and went to the typewriter's desk.

She saw him coming, but kept right on with her work.

"You aren't mad still, are you?" he asked.

She did not answer him.

"Aren't you going to speak to me any more?"

No answer.

"Are you jealous because——"

"No, I'm not jealous at anything," she snapped out. "Why don't you go and talk to your 'She' instead of bothering me when I'm busy?"

"I see I'll have to tell you who the young lady is."

"I don't want to know."

"Oh, come, now, you do want to know."

"I don't. I'm not interested in the person at all, nor you, either."

"I'm going to tell you, any——"

The buzz of Mr. Hewes's bell interrupted him and he had to leave her.

He had a message to take to the Mills Building, and another to the Vanderpool Building.

When he got back, half an hour later, he had to go out again.

After that he had to go to the bank, so that it was more than three hours before he had a breathing spell.

Then Mr. Hewes handed him some papers to carry to Miss Carpenter.

"I want to tell you the whole story of how I came to get that tip," he said, after laying the papers on her table. And he did, though she pretended not to listen to him. "I made thirty-six thousand three hundred dollars, and I'd have given half of it if you'd been in with me. I take just as much interest in seeing you win as I do in winning myself. I think I proved that in our two deals. I'd rather not have the money than have a break-up with you. I mean it, whether you think so or not. Miss Emmett is all right in her way, but she don't stand one, two, three with me. That's all I've got to say. Are we going to be friends or not? It's up to you. I've tried to make matters clear. If I haven't succeeded it isn't my fault."

He tried to take her hand, but she eluded his grasp.

He looked at her a moment and then walked slowly outside.

In half an hour he put on his hat and left the office for the day.

A little later she went home herself, feeling very miserable.

At half-past ten next morning Mr. Hewes sent Phil down to the Bowling Green Building, on Broadway.

Three-quarters of an hour later the telephone bell rang.

The clerk who usually answered the call was not in the room, and the stenographer went into the booth.

A moment later a cry sprang to her lips and she turned white as a sheet.

The person at the other end of the wire was an attache of the Chambers Street Hospital, and he was trying to make the fact clear that a boy named Phil Bristow, who said he was a messenger for Mr. Hewes, had been struck by an automobile on Broadway and removed to the hospital.

It was uncertain yet how bad his injuries were, as he was still in the hands of the doctors.

That was all, but the girl still remained with the receiver at her ears after the man had rung off.

Five minutes later Miss Carpenter, looking greatly upset, entered Mr. Hewes' private room and, with quivering lips, told him of the accident that had happened to Phil.

"My gracious!" cried the broker, very much startled. "Struck by an auto, and at the Chambers Street Hospital? I must go right over!"

He grabbed his hat and left the building, after telling the news to the cashier, who in turn communicated it to the clerks.

Everybody was sorry to hear that Phil had been injured, for he was a favorite in the place, and work came to a standstill for a little while.

As for Ethel Carpenter, she bent over her machine and buried her face in her handkerchief.

The hospital man had said very little, but what he did say was rather obvious, and the stenographer was so nervous and excited that she could not do another stroke of work to save her life.

Mr. Hewes returned to his office about half-past twelve and reported that Phil was not seriously injured, but had received a bad shaming-up, and would be confined to his bed for several days.

This intelligence was received with great satisfaction by the other employees.

Miss Carpenter felt greatly relieved, but her work that afternoon showed several errors, which was a sign that her thoughts were not as close to business as usual.

At half-past four she left the office, and instead of going directly home she walked over to the Chambers Street Hospital and asked how the young messenger was getting on.

She received an encouraging answer and went away.

The young doctor who held the brief conversation with her did not ask her name, so when he visited Phil, later on, he simply told him that a young lady had called and inquired about him.

He described the visitor with sufficient accuracy for the boy to recognize who she was, and he smiled contentedly.

Will Ashley also called later on and made similar inquiries.

Phil's accident was duly chronicled in the papers that afternoon and also on the following morning.

Bob Davis read the story, and he, too, turned up at the hospital to find out how his friend was progressing.

Ethel Carpenter made a second call on the following afternoon and found that Phil was coming around all right.

While Bristow was away, Will Ashley was called on to carry the more important messages, the others being attended to by A. D. T. messengers.

On the fourth day Phil was pronounced well enough to leave the hospital, and Mr. Hewes provided a carriage to convey him to his boarding-house.

He did not appear at the office until Wednesday of the following week, and then there was a noticeable lameness in his walk.

He held a small levee around his chair in the reception-room when the clerks arrived, but was alone when Miss Carpenter came in, a bit late.

As soon as she saw him she rushed over with outstretched hand.

"I am so glad you are back, Phil!" she cried.

"Thanks, Ethel. You were very kind to call at the hospital and inquire about me. I appreciate it very much," he said, holding on to her hand.

She blushed and looked down.

"You aren't mad with me any more?" he asked wistfully.

"No, Phil," she replied in a low tone. "I acted very silly, and I don't know what you think of me. I want you to forgive me."

"Don't mention it, Ethel! There's nothing for me to forgive. But I felt very bad over the matter. I'd rather have been knocked out for good and all by the auto than to have lost your friendship."

She blushed deeper still, but made no reply.

Phil, however, felt her hand tremble in his, and it rather encouraged him.

"We are friends just the same as ever, Ethel?" he asked.

"Yes, Phil."

"And partners, too, in the next deal?"

"Yes."

"You remember I told you early in June that I had my hand read by a professor of palmistry and astrology?"

"Yes."

"Everything he told me turned out true but one thing, which is yet in the future. I have been wondering whether he will be right in that, too."

"What was it?" she asked, with some curiosity.

"I don't know whether you'd care to have me tell you about that."

"Why not?"

"Because," he said, in a hesitating tone, "you are connected with it."

"Me?" in surprise.

Phil nodded.

"What did he say about me?"

"He told me that you and I were partners in money-making deals, and that we'd both do well. He said we'd come out ahead in the I. & C. speculation we had on at the time. He told me that I was liable to meet with a serious accident, and I did."

"He must be a wonderful man."

"He is, and a very nice fellow to talk to. What I referred to as the one thing still in the perspective is that he said you and I might—that is, that it was possible that we—I guess I won't tell you just now."

"Oh, but I want to know," she insisted. "You have aroused my curiosity, and I won't be satisfied until you tell me what he said."

"Well, he said that it was not improbable that you and I might enter into another kind of partnership. I'm only telling you what he said."

"What kind of a partnership?"

"One that usually lasts a considerable time and is not limited by articles of agreement. In other words, he said that we might—get married," replied Phil, desperately.

The stenographer flushed to the roots of her hair, snatched her hand away and ran into the counting-room.

"I wonder if I've made her mad again?" Phil asked himself anxiously.

CHAPTER XVI.

CONCLUSION

Miss Carpenter did not look as if she was angry over again when Phil carried some statement to her later on to copy.

But she did not look him in the face as she was accustomed to do.

They had quite a little chat, during which she did not once relax her work at the machine.

Phil, however, was satisfied, and avoided any more references to Professor Gregory, the palmist.

His lameness gradually wore off, and a week later he felt as spry as he ever was in his life.

The gentleman who was in the automobile at the time Phil was run down called at Mr. Hewes's office to see what kind of recompense he could offer the boy, for he had visions of a civil suit before him.

Phil, however, declined to take the check for five hundred dollars he wanted to offer him.

The gentleman then offered to make it one thousand dollars.

Phil shook his head.

"Your apology is good enough for me. I am sure it wasn't your fault. Broadway is a crowded thoroughfare, and I guess you didn't see me in time. I am not going to give you any trouble about the matter."

"But I sha'n't feel satisfied unless you allow me to make some kind of a reparation, my lad."

"Well, sir, you're a big operator in stocks, aren't you?"

"Yes."

"I've got a little money I'd like to put into a good thing. Well, if you want to do something for me, send me a good tip some time and I'll be satisfied. I promise you that I won't let it get away from me."

The gentleman pondered a moment.

"How much money have you?" he asked.

"I've got a few thousand dollars," replied Phil.

"Have you, indeed?" said the gentleman, in some surprise.

"You promise not to sell or give away any pointer I may put you onto, do you?"

"Yes, sir. Mr. Hewes will tell you that I'm a boy of my word."

"I accept your promise, and I'll put you onto something right now. Go to-day and buy as many shares of D. & G. stock as you can raise the margin to cover. It's ruling at

87. It will go over 110 or even higher, perhaps, inside of ten days. I'd advise you, however, to sell at 110 or thereabouts, to be on the safe side."

"Thank you, sir. I'll do as you say."

After the gentleman had gone away Phil ran in to tell the stenographer.

"You want to get your money out of the bank this afternoon, Ethel. I've got another tip."

Then he told her the substance of the interview he had just had with the owner of the automobile which had run him down the previous week.

"This is where I expect to make a hundred thousand dollars, maybe. Now, of course, you've got to be in on the snap as well. You must buy two hundred shares. It will take a margin of seventeen hundred and forty dollars."

"But I've only got about \$1,400, Phil."

"I'll lend you the balance. Bring your \$1,400 here in the morning."

That afternoon Phil bought 5,000 shares of D. & G., and put up \$43,000 in margin with the little bank.

It was an unusually large order for the bank to handle, as it involved an outlay on its part of nearly \$400,000 to carry the deal.

However, money was cheap in the Street just then, and as soon as the bank got the stock it hypothecated the shares with a large Wall Street institution for over \$350,000.

Next morning, before noon, Phil bought 200 shares more for Ethel.

The very next day the stock began to get active, and the price went up two points.

He wondered how he could make Bob Davis wise to the situation without breaking his word to the operator who had given him the tip.

He ran against Bob that very day.

"Doing anything in the market?" he asked him.

"Not a thing," was the reply.

"Well, D. & G. looks like a good thing. Why don't you take a flyer with it?"

"Are you?" asked Bob.

"Maybe," replied Phil.

"Know anything about it?" asked Bob.

"I know it's a gilt-edged stock."

"I know that much myself."

"It went up two points to-day."

"I didn't notice," answered Davis.

"If I was you I think I'd take a shy at it," said Phil.

"If you do, I will," answered Bob.

"Do you mean that?"

"Yes."

"Then I don't mind telling you that I'm in it."

"To what extent?"

"I can't tell you that."

He knew that if he admitted to Bob that he had his whole capital on the stock his friend would know that he had been tipped off somehow.

Finally Bob said he would buy 100 shares of D. & G. on the following day.

Three days later the shares were up to 92.

Then rumors began to float about the Street concerning a deal between D. & G. and a branch line which led to a coal and iron district.

It was said that the former road had succeeded in leasing the latter, thereby getting an entrance to a very productive field of operations.

The fact, however, could not be verified, and the D. & G. management was not giving out any news.

It had the effect, anyway, of causing a rush for the stock on the part of outsiders, and the shares went to 95.

Next day an attack was made on the stock, and it dropped down to 88, cleaning out a lot of the rash lambs.

Later on it recovered and went to 91.

Next day a well-known financial daily came out with a statement that everything pointed to an alliance between D. & G. and the management of the coal and iron road, and as a consequence the shares of the former road began to boom again, and reached 96.

On the succeeding day they reached par.

Another bear raid was made on the road, but it didn't have much effect, for though the shares receded to 96 they soon recovered and went to 102.

Overnight the coalition between the two roads became generally known as a fact, and so when the Exchange opened next morning D. & G. started off at 103.

The same old excitement that always attends a boom set in, and the shares went right up to 110 before noon.

At three o'clock the stock was going at 112, and at half-past three Phil went to the bank and ordered his shares, as well as Ethel's 200, sold.

They were disposed of among the early sales next morning at 112 5-8.

When Phil got his statement, D. & G. was selling at 116, but he was satisfied.

He had cleaned up a quarter of a million by the deal.

Ethel Carpenter's profits footed up nearly \$5,000.

Phil was now worth \$264,000.

Of this fact Mr. Hewes had not the least suspicion.

Nor did any clerk in the office dream that the young messenger had actually made a comfortable fortune in Wall Street that year.

When Christmas came around, the stenographer said she was going to make Phil a handsome present for turning her original \$50 into over \$6,400.

"You mean that, do you, Ethel?" replied Phil.

"I certainly do," she answered.

"Well there's only one kind of present I'll accept from you."

"What is that?" she said, interestedly.

"It's the most valuable thing you could give me."

"I really don't know what you mean," she replied, in a puzzled tone.

"Then I'll tell you. Give me your promise to marry me some day."

"Oh, Phil!" she exclaimed, in great confusion.

"What is it—yes or no?"

"Yes," she replied.

Three days afterward Phil met Professor Gregory on the street.

"Say, you're all right, Mr. Gregory. Everything you told me has come true except the last, and that's going to, for the girl said 'yes.'"

Phil is now head clerk for Mr. Hewes, and there is a new stenographer in the office, because Ethel Bristow, nee Carpenter, has all she wants to do to look after the comfortable little home provided for her by An Ambitious Boy in Wall Street.

Next week's issue will contain "MONEY TO BURN; OR, THE SHREWDEST BOY IN WALL STREET."

SEND POSTAL FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE.

CURRENT NEWS

The Tokio correspondent of the *Petit Parisien* quotes the Japanese Foreign Minister, Baron Ishii, as saying: "We have not yet considered the possibility of sending an expeditionary force to Europe, but should the necessity arise Japan would send a very strong army in one shipment, as we would not risk defeat. Japan has already supplied and will supply the most important quantity of munitions to Russia. Russia does not need men. Only a third of her men are now equipped. By the end of December Japan will have done a great deal toward arming the two other thirds."

According to advices reaching Washington recently, President Yuan Shi Kai will undertake, if he ascends the throne, to guarantee an annual allowance of \$4,000,000 to the deposed little nine-year-old Emperor as long as he lives, to recognize him as a Chinese prince and to provide proper places in the Government and emoluments for the principal members of his family and his immediately adherents. In return it is proposed that the Emperor issue an address to the Manchus explaining the conditions which have made it necessary for Yuan to assume the throne for the benefit of the Chinese people, and urging them to render him loyal support.

Delegate James Wickersham, of Alaska, who has arrived from the North en route to Washington, announced that he would introduce a bill at the coming session of Congress providing for Statehood for Alaska. Other bills affecting the Federal administration of Alaska also would be introduced, Mr. Wickersham said. One of these provides for the centralization of Federal administrative offices into one commission of five members, to be composed of the Governor of Alaska, the Secretary of State, and three other residents of Alaska. Another measure would provide for the establishment of a naval base at some Alaskan port.

Jimmy Britt, of California, once known of the Beau Brummel of the prize ring and the lightweight champion of America, has accepted the King's shilling, and, in all probability, is now in the trenches of Gallipoli. Britt was last seen in New York last spring, when he was doing a monologue turn on the same bill with Jess Willard. At that time he told his friends he was booked for a tour that would take him to New Zealand and Australia. It was while Britt was in the Antipodes that he joined the British army and stepped aboard a troopship ready to fight with the Allies against the Turks. News of his joining the Allies was conveyed here in a letter to Al Lippe, the manager of Jeff Smith, middleweight boxer.

Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, has just purchased a tract of eighty acres near Newark, upon which to establish a big Eastern plant. He would not say whether it was for the manufacture of automobiles, and

appeared rather displeased that the fact of the purchase had become known. The tract, it is said, is between Newark and Jersey City. Mr. Ford, after a discussion of his peace expedition in the late afternoon, held a conference with the agents of the property. When asked about his purchase, Mr. Ford said that it was quite true that he had bought the property and was going to build a plant there. "But I do not care to have anything printed about this just now," he added. When told that his purchase of the property was known generally, he looked displeased and said that he would not talk about the matter further.

A swindle involving, it is said, ten men in the employ of the du Pont Powder Works, near Petersburg, Va., came to light when a clerk in the paymaster's office and a former member of the company's police force were held upon suspicion of having robbed the company of from \$10,000 to \$50,000 by padding the payroll. The men, one named Pugh, the other Murphy, are said to be heads of a band of clerks in the paymaster's office and construction foremen. It was reported here that two others had been arrested, one in Wilmington and the other in New York. It is charged the men kept the names of discharged employees on their payrolls and "dummies" holding tags applied each pay day for the checks.

The Federal Employment Bureau is a success, declares Secretary of Labor Wilson. "We started in a small way," he said recently, "but the work has progressed far enough to show the possibilities of this line of endeavor. We have furnished jobs to about 33 per cent. of those who have applied for work. Our aim is to link together in one big chain all the State and Municipal agencies for the unemployed. Some progress has been made along this line already. The bureau does not merely place unskilled labor; it has applications from many men of training in various industrial fields and has found employment for a large number. We are constantly receiving applications for jobs and from the employers' orders to fill their employment wants. We act precisely as a clearing-house for labor."

Acquisition of territory in Mexico, including Magdalena Bay, which Japan is understood to covet, will be made the subject of agitation in Congress this winter by delegations from the Pacific coast, says a Washington dispatch to the *New York Sun*. The movement will have the backing of persons on the Pacific coast who fear that Japan, in spite of the Monroe Doctrine, may attempt to establish a naval base in Magdalena Bay, which is in the State of Lower California. Influences on the Pacific coast therefore intend to start an agitation in favor of acquiring not only Lower California, but the northern parts of the States of Chihuahua and Sonora in Mexico. Those backing the movement are looking into the future. It is suggested that in compensation Mexico might receive a quit-tance for the debts incurred by her for settlement of damages to foreign property during the revolution.

SIX WEEKS IN THE MOON

— OR —

A TRIP BEYOND THE ZENITH

By ED. KING

(A SERIAL STORY)

CHAPTER XX.

A CHANGE OF SENTIMENT.

Then the lunar prince began to make sign talk, using the disjointed parts of the rifle the while. Like a flash all dawned upon Dick.

He saw at once what Moda had been up to.

The moon prince had bethought himself of an investigation of the strange fire-stick or weapon which the earthly visitors used to ascertain if it really did establish their alliance with the Dark and Evil One. He called in a skilled artisan to examine the gun, a chemist to analyze the powder and ball in the cartridges, and a priest to decide whether there were any voodoo, hoodoo or other bad elements in the matter.

The result was that the artisan found only a combination of iron or steel and wood in the strange weapon. The chemist elicited only salt-peter and charcoal as the important ingredients of the powder and the explosive power was at once understood. All of these elements or articles existed in the moon. The priest with all his exhortations could evolve no proof that the Dark and Evil One had anything to do with the curious shooting weapon used by the earthly visitors.

The moon people were by no means beyond the pale of reason. At once Moda saw the force and the gravity of his awful mistake.

He realized that he had done his distinguished visitors from another sphere a terrible injustice. At once, with characteristic impetuosity, he took measures to repair this.

It did not take Dick long to divine the whole truth. Moda impressed upon him strongly the change of sentiment. That the boy traveler was delighted goes without saying.

From that moment he was again the distinguished guest of the moon prince. It seemed as if Moda could not do enough for him.

All the nobles of the prince's court and the fairest of the lunar women paid devotion to the earthly visitor. In fact, he was made the lion of the hour.

This was all very nice, but all the while Dick was thinking of Ned and Elias.

Where were they? What efforts, if any, had they made for his rescue? How could he communicate to them the change in sentiment?

In order to explain this problem to the reader, it will be necessary to take leave of Dick for a time.

We left Elias and Ned on the hilltop waiting for the coming of darkness, that they might effect a plan for the rescue of Dick.

And the time seemed to them ages, ere the lunar sun went down and the moonless night supervened.

Elias had a plan all outlined. This was to wait until the moon people had retired, and then the coast would be clear for them to invade the city.

And when this was assured, they crept cautiously down the hill and into the lunar city.

Not a Modite was astir. All was the silence of the tomb.

The two desecrators of the moon night made their way through the city with the greatest of ease. In this way they finally came to the gate of the palace yard.

No guard was there, for no moon dweller was ever astir after midnight. The gate was a high structure, studded with spikes.

"We can never climb over that," whispered Ned. "What shall we do?"

Elias for answer made his way along the palace wall. He suddenly came to a circular opening about the size of a needle's eye, as described in Scripture.

This seemed to him a safe entrance to the garden, so he eagerly entered it.

The result was not visible to Ned at the moment, but was startling to Elias. The moment he stepped into the place he experienced a falling sensation.

Down he went for what seemed a tremendous way and was instantly immersed in water. A loud splash by his side and a gasping exclamation told him that Ned had followed him in the same manner.

"Mercy!" gasped the professor. "Where are we? Is that you, Ned?"

"Gracious, yes!" replied the astonished youth. "Where are we, professor?"

"I don't know, except that we are in water!"

"We fell somehow!"

"Oh, yes! We have dropped into some kind of an underground place. It is lucky for us that this water is so buoyant or we would drown!"

"That is so. Can we go back the way we came?"

"I doubt it—in this darkness!"

"What shall we do, then?"

"We must swim for a way and see if we cannot find a landing-place. Keep close by me."

"All right!"

With this they set out to swim. For a time this was easy work enough. Then the professor's feet struck bottom.

"Heigho!" he cried; "here is land under us at last!"

A few moments more they were out of the carmine fluid. They drew themselves out upon the spongy sands and tried to penetrate the gloom about them.

This was impossible.

"I'd like to know where we are," cried Ned. "A kingdom for a light!"

"Haven't you a waterproof matchcase?" asked Elias.

"Why, sure!" replied Ned, feeling in his pocket. "I had forgotten that."

He drew out a match and lit it. By its flame, a rolling current of water was visible at their feet.

But back of them was a huge pillar of rock. There were other pillars beyond this, and the place had the appearance of a huge underground crypt or vault.

Instantly the truth dawned upon Elias.

"Now we're in a scrape, Ned," he exclaimed, ruefully. "We are under the royal palace. If we are not careful we will fall into the hands of the Modites, for if they once learn that we are here, they will doubtless hunt us down like rats in a trap."

"Cracky!" exclaimed Ned. "What can we do? I have it. Let us find our way up into the palace just the same as we intended after they are asleep."

"That will do very well," said Elias, "if we are not detected in the meanwhile."

"Do you believe any of them ever come down here?"

"Perhaps not very often. At any rate, we will live in that hope."

So the two rescuers began to traverse the vault looking for an outlet. For hours they wandered about in the darkness.

Their matches were nearly exhausted, and they discovered that they had returned to their starting point.

There seemed to be no outlet to the place. Moreover, the pangs of hunger had begun to assail them seriously.

CHAPTER XXI.

STRANGE EXPERIENCES.

At length both Ned and Prof. Elias sank down exhausted.

"By Apollo!" quoth the savant, "I don't see but that we are in a bad scrape, Ned. We may never find our way out of here."

"It would be horrible to die in such a place!" said Ned.

"Yet how can we get out of it?"

"Give it up."

Indeed, it did look like a hopeless case. But, fortunately, they were not without food.

Ned and the professor both had filled their knapsacks with strips of the meat which they had cooked that day. This now stood them in good stead.

Indeed, it was doubtless the means of saving their lives.

After a rest they again renewed their efforts to find the outlet to the vault. But after covering what seemed to them miles of ground they were rewarded by a disheartening discovery.

Steps were found which led up to the palace floor. But here a heavy trap of solid rock was encountered which could not be lifted.

Here was a dilemma. In vain Ned and Elias tried to force their way upwards. Their best efforts were set at naught.

They sat down on the steps and nearly gave way to despair. They had spent the night and a whole day in the quest.

But after a time their spirits rose and once more they set out on the quest.

Hours of wandering followed. There were intervals of sleep and spells of weary searching. All the time their food supply was getting lower and finally became exhausted.

The situation was desperate.

The professor looked at his chronometer and said:

"We have been four days in this place, Ned. What will be the end of it?"

Ned shivered.

"I don't dare to think," he said. "I'm afraid we'll never get out of here."

"It looks bad!"

"How unlucky that Dick fell into the hands of the Modites. But for that we might be on our way to the earth now."

"That is true. Yet we are no worse off than he is. Probably they have put him to death ere this."

"Oh, let us not think of that!" exclaimed Ned, with a shiver; "if harm comes to Dick, I believe I shall die."

"We will hope for the best."

Thus the two despairing wanderers sat in the darkness. Suddenly Ned gripped the professor's arm.

"By ginger!" he exclaimed, "look over there."

Elias was for a moment petrified. The sight which both saw was a thrilling one.

A long line of white-robed figures with torches were marching through the underground vault. They were Modites.

In an instant Ned and Elias were on their feet.

For a moment they were quite undecided what to do. Then Elias said:

"Let's follow them!"

"All right!" whispered Ned. "You lead the way!"

The two adventurers crept after the marching line of natives. Soon they came to ascending steps.

Up these they marched, and Ned and Elias saw the trap-door open. A daring resolve seized them.

"It is our only hope," whispered Ned. "Follow them!"

Up the steps in the rear of the white-robed natives they went. Up and into a dimly lit chambebr.

They had not been seen thus far. The line of Modite priests, for such they were, marched on into a passage beyond.

As for Ned and Elias, they dodged into the shadows and there crouched in a state of much apprehension.

(To be continued)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

WELCOME LIBERTY BELL.

The Liberty Bell received a rousing welcome in Philadelphia, Nov. 25, shortly before 4 o'clock in the afternoon, from the Pacific Coast. Escorted from the railroad station in West Philadelphia by a large force of militia, the bell was safely lodged in its glass case in Independence Hall after it had passed through streets lined by thousands of persons. At Independence Hall patriotic exercises were held.

GERMAN AVIATORS FROZEN.

The bodies of two German aeronauts, pilot and observer of an aeroplane of the Albatross type, were discovered in a marsh near Divinsk. The men had been frozen to death. The Albatross was permitted to cross the Russian lines. Its escape was then cut off by a flock of Russian aircraft. The German machine circled about frantically for half an hour, and then, when it was seen there was no chance of escape, it descended to the marsh. Cossacks on bicycles started in pursuit, but did not discover the landing-place until after the Germans had succumbed to the cold. The aeroplane was undamaged.

WANT SIX-HOUR WORKDAY.

Resolutions providing for an inquiry to determine when a six-hour day can be established in place of an eight-hour day and ousting certain crafts from the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor were considered by the resolutions committee of the department in San Francisco. The six-hour day was offered as the only remedy for conditions caused by the invention and perfection of machinery "making it increasingly harder for working people to continue in steady employment as shown by the large number of unemployed at all times of the year." A definite report at the next convention was asked.

WAITED ALL NIGHT.

The other night J. S. Adams and his two sons, Carl and Bundy, of Saylorsville, Ky., went possum hunting. They started about 9 o'clock, and about 12 o'clock his wife began to get uneasy, and still they did not come home. Next morning she went out and got the neighbors to make a search for them, and while she was getting breakfast she looked up the hill and saw them coming.

When his wife asked him what had delayed him, he said: "We were on the hill when the dog made a dive into the underbrush and then treed something. We went to the tree and thought it was a coon, and we laid down on the leaves and went to sleep. The next morning we saw that we had treed a big black cat instead of a coon."

BOY TRAMP'S STORY.

Locked up in Baltimore recently was a slight, wiry boy of fifteen years, with keen blue eyes and a shock of red hair, who has just completed a swing around the country

that covered more than 10,000 miles and nearly every State. His name is Donald Burke and his home is Philadelphia. He is not the least bit worried at his predicament, nor about the charge of unlawfully riding on freight cars, which has been placed against him.

The boy first went to Chicago, and was arrested, but discharged. From St. Louis he went to New Orleans, then across Texas to El Paso and down along the Mexican border, always using the rods under passenger coaches or roomy empty freight cars. After seeing the exposition he continued up the coast to Vancouver and down through Canada.

TWO CYCLISTS WILL ENLIST.

After having spent the last season in this country competing on the cycle tracks of the East, Marcel Dupuy, the French sprinter, and Victor Linart, the Belgian, will return to their respective countries after the six-day race at Madison Square Garden. Dupuy has received notices that he is to return to France, while Linart is going to volunteer as soon as he reaches the headquarters of King Albert's army, located in the north of France and that part of Belgium not occupied by the Germans.

Dupuy made a great showing at the Newark Velodrome this last season in the Brassard race, one of the features of the Newark track. He was excused from the French army at the start of the war on account of having had half of one foot cut off by a trolley. Linart came to the United States last year and showed great form in his paced races while in this country, and won the American paced championship this season against the pick of the field following that branch of cycling.

RUSSIA EQUIPS NEW ARMY OF 3,000,000.

"Watch Russia!" is the word that came from a reliable source. It lent strength to rumors that the Eastern front will produce one of the greatest campaigns of the war this winter.

Reports that the Germans have evacuated Mitau and are drawing back along a wide front from the Riga region brought further confirmation. The Russian line has been strengthened twofold by the arrival of fresh troops, large supplies of ammunition and big guns.

The Czar's new armies number 3,000,000 men. Russia is said to be preparing for a new offensive that will sweep down on a narrow front toward Prussia.

Corps from the steppes of Siberia, the great province of Archangel and the provinces of Vologda, Viatka and Perm, trained and well equipped, are moving toward the Russian front, ready to join hands with winter, Germany's worst enemy.

The factor that enabled the Germans to make their great drive through Poland last spring and summer—preponderance of heavy guns and munitions—is counted upon to give the Russians the advantage when they begin to drive them back.

Young Fresh from 'Frisco

— OR —

THE BOY WHO BOSSED THE MINE

By GASTON GARNE

(A SERIAL STORY)

CHAPTER XI (continued)

"That's handsome. They tell me Arthur is a good boy."

"That's what he is. But, speaking of telling, suppose you tell me your name?"

"Won't do it."

"All right. Then I'll have to make up a name for you."

"You—make up a name for me?" the man grinned.

"Yes."

"What's it to be?"

"What's that coat you have got on made of?"

"Waal, I reckon it's made of the skin of a deer what I shot and skun myself."

"That gives me a name. I'll call you Old Deerskin—or, hold on! I'll do better than that. I'll call you Old Deering."

"Gosh-a-mighty!" cried the man, exhibiting great surprise.

"Well, what now?" demanded Jack.

"You must hev run into me before, but I'll be switched if I remember whar."

"So your name is Deering? I thought so," laughed Jack, quick to catch on.

"That's what it are. Old Sile Deering, at your sarvice—no, I can't say that. I'm not at your sarvice, seeing as I'm in another feller's sarvice. Whar was it now?"

"Where did I meet you?"

"Yas."

"Must have been in 'Frisco."

"I suppose it must. Was you ever stopping at the What Cheer House?"

"I've been in there often. I never happened to stay there overnight."

"It couldn't have been in the shooting-gallery; p'raps it was in Al Henry's?"

"You mean the faro bank on Sacramento street?"

"Yas."

"I was never in there."

"Waal, I give it up, then. Must have been somewheres, though."

But it was nowhere.

Jack was only bluffing. By a strange coincidence his bluffing had led him to guess the name of this old original.

He was just putting the finishing touches to his toilet, and with that rifle in front of him he was not looking behind him very much.

Had he done so he would have perceived a dark, lithe,

naked figure creeping toward him over the rocky ledge which here formed the shore.

It was Mr. Coffee-color, who had come up out of the water further on quite unobserved.

Old Sile raised his hand, making a quick signal, but to this Jack did not "tumble."

Then all in an instant the creature sprang upon him, clutching his throat.

"Me killee him, boss!" he cried, deftly, tripping Jack up with his naked leg. "Say, me killee him right now?"

Down went Jack with Coffee-color on top of him, those terrible hands tightening about his throat.

CHAPTER XII.

A PRISONER AT THE HIDDEN MILL.

Pinned down as he was, it was all Jack could do to utter a sound.

But, in spite of this, he managed to find his voice.

"Fight square, Sile Deering!" he called, chokingly. "If you are really an old forty-niner, fight square!"

It was the shrewdest appeal Jack could possibly have made.

No greater compliment can be paid to an old-time Californian than to call him a forty-niner.

Whether Old Sile was one or not is questionable, but Jack had hit it just the same.

"Let up, Kimo!" the old man called. "Give him a show to hear what I have to say. And, mark you, Young Fresh, keep still or Kimo will be at it again."

Jack never moved when the pressure on his throat was relaxed.

"Tie him up, Kimo," ordered Sile.

In a moment Jack's arms were bound behind him, and Kimo lifted him to his feet.

"Blinders, now," said Sile.

A tight bandage was tied over Jack's eyes.

"Come on," said Sile. "We have wasted a whole lot of time. I've got something else to do besides standing around here."

Jack allowed himself to be led along quietly, for there was no help for it.

He knew when he was taken into the ruined ore barn. Here there was a brief wait. From the sounds he con-

cluded that a trap-door was being opened; then he was led down a flight of stairs and hurried along on the level for a considerable distance.

More stairs were encountered. This time it was going up.

Then the cool air struck his face, and a thin, squeaky voice was heard exclaiming:

"Well, so you have got one of them, Uncle Sile?"

"Two," was the answer. "The other's alive and kicking, too, but as this one's the wust we thought we'd bring him the fust."

This reply, Jack felt, was intended in part for him. At all events, it was a relief to know that Arthur was not dead.

"Which of them is Young Fresh from 'Frisco?" the voice inquired.

"This is Young Fresh," chuckled Sile. "This is old Ben Boughton's nevvie, the kid what come up here to boss High Rock mine."

"Well," replied the voice, "he had better have jumped off the dock and drowned himself before he thought of coming to High Rock. Pity some one couldn't have warned him. He's a likely looking chap, too."

"He's all right," said Sile, "and it seems we've met before down to 'Frisco. He knowed me right away."

All this time Jack was being led along up a rough, steep incline.

At last they reached the level, where a halt was made and the bandage removed.

Jack looked about him curiously.

He stood in a narrow valley, hemmed in on both sides by towering slopes heavily wooded, as is usually the case with the sides of the Sierras.

At his feet ran a rushing stream; there was a bridge close by, and on the opposite side stood a small frame structure, inside of which the clanking of machinery could be heard.

Near by were three log huts. It was a wild, romantic-looking spot, and, Jack was ready to believe, one known to very few.

This, of course, was the hidden mill, where a part—perhaps the greater part—of the ore from High Rock mine was reduced to gold and silver.

Jack felt but little hope.

Kimo had now vanished, and as Jack had heard Old Sile give the order for him to "go back and fetch the other one," he knew that he might expect to see Arthur soon.

Now his attention was drawn to Sile's companion, a small, insignificant-looking man, with a bushy beard and gold spectacles.

He looked like a foreigner. Jack at once put him down as the master of the mill.

"Waal, here you be," said Sile. "This is the place you were looking for. Let me introduce you to Professor Steinmetz, the learnedest man on the hull airth when it comes to ores. I believe he'd take gold out of a brick."

"What do you want to name names for?" snapped Steinmetz. "You look sharp about your business, Sile, or there may be trouble in store for you."

With this the professor walked off and entered the mill. Sile grinned.

"Crusty old curmudgeon," he said. "I don't see no use in being so blame sour. If you have got to do a feller, you might as well speak him fair."

"Am I to be done?" asked Jack.

"Them's the orders," was the reply. "Still, they might be changed for all I can tell. I rather think Tom Barnacle will come down hyar and settle the matter himself. Now, boy, come along with me."

Sile led the way across the bridge and into one of the huts, which was rudely furnished.

"Sorry to tie up your legs," he said, "but it's got to be did, or you might be giving us the walk-off. You might wander about this hyar valley for a month and never find the way out of it. I'm really doing you a sarvice to keep you from trying it on."

Jack was tired of talking now.

Tied hand and foot, and tumbled into a bunk, he was left to himself, and there he remained for the next two hours.

His hope that Arthur would be brought in was not gratified.

Every effort to free himself was in vain.

At last, after what seemed an interminable time, Old Sile appeared again.

"It's no use talking, Young Fresh," he said. "I own I've took a kinder fancy to yer. I'd like to let yer loose, but it hain't to be. Orders was that if you come snoopin' around these here diggin's you war to be shot. There hain't no use prolonging the agony. I look for Tom Barnacle down hyar any minute. You've run up against him, and so you have got to take the consequences. So say your prayers and prepare to die."

"And you would shoot me as I am now, bound and helpless?" demanded Jack. "You would kill me like a dog?"

"It hain't what I want to do, but what I must do," replied Sile, in a shuffling way.

"And it is what you won't do!" cried a voice from the doorway. "Father, that is the man!"

Jack saw her before she spoke, for while Old Sile was making his remarks she glided into the doorway.

It was Daisy.

There stood the strange little creature, holding a rifle and looking at Jack with pitying eyes.

Old Sile wheeled around on the instant.

"By Jerusalem, gal, what brung you hyar?" he exclaimed.

"I came to save him!" said Daisy. "It can't be—it mustn't be. I tell you, father, he is the man!"

"What man? What are you talking about? Who do you mean?" demanded Sile.

"The man who saved my life night before last. You see him there? Would you kill him? Do it if you dare! So sure as you put a bullet into him I'll put one——"

"Into me? Don't say it, gal! Don't say it! That's wicked. Hain't I your dad?"

"You say so. It's no honor to be your child."

"You little grasshopper!" cried Sile, picking her up in his arms in spite of her struggles. "How dar' you come here interferin'? I tell you I can't help it none. That thar feller is Young Fresh from 'Frisco, and order is he must die!"

(To be continued)

TIMELY TOPICS

American commercial interests in Greenland rest wholly in obtaining supplies of cryolite from there. The quarries at Ivigtut, at the southern extremity of the land, furnish nearly all the cryolite used in the world. The United States is now importing considerable quantities of this cryolite, its use being in manufacturing opaque glaze for enameling ironware (the imports of which from Europe are now cut off) and in fluxes for electrolytic aluminum and white Portland cement.

The Kingdom of Siam covers an area of about 200,000 square miles, and the last census gave a total population of 8,149,487. The highest temperature of about 106 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade at Bangkok is usually reached in April and May, and the lowest of about 52 degrees in December or January, the two latter months being the most suitable for tourists and commercial travelers to visit northern Siam. The spoken and written language is Siamese, but for commercial purposes the English language is in general use.

Very serious, coming, as it does, when Germany is feeling the pinch of the British and French blockade, are the activities of British submarines in the Baltic, which have resulted in the sinking of a large number of ships carrying supplies to Germany; for it is mainly through the Baltic Sea that the Central Powers have been able to import necessities for the combatants and non-combatants within their borders. Unless Germany practises those methods of defense that have been employed so successfully by her adversaries, the submarine menace may grow to a point at which it will effectively close German Baltic ports to merchant shipping.

The copper roof is being taken from the imperial castle at Donaueschingen, Germany, and will be used in the manufacture of munitions of war. This roof weighs many tons. This is not the first time that metal has been requisitioned from an imperial residence. The Emperor's palace in Berlin was visited the latter part of September by the commission having in charge the seizure of metal for Government use, and a list of the metals at the court was demanded. Emperor William ordered that all metals not in actual necessary use be seized. It was reported recently that the huge copper roofs of the cathedral at Bremen were being dismantled for military use.

Certainly a razor is rather a delicate instrument with which to carve one's way to fortune—but here's what has happened to George Hoehn, a barber. Seven years ago he twirled a razor in the barber shop of the Hotel Astor, New York. A regular customer was Francis E. Miller, a millionaire. It is to be imagined that in these operations Hoehn never pulled a hair, for the other day a lawyer entered Hoehn's shop at Mount Holly, N. J., and told him that the executors of Miller's estate had made a long

search for him because they wanted to hand over a legacy of \$15,000. Hoehn said he had shaved Mr. Miller daily for something over a year, and that while he knew the customer was satisfied with his work and always had a pleasant greeting for him, he had not the slightest idea that a friendship had been formed that would cause such a big tip to be handed him.

Dr. Robert Miller Cox, of Chester, was injured in a bear-fight in the woods near Trout Run, Pa. Together with Elmer Edmunds, of Rochester, N. Y., and William Fott, of Trout Run, Cox was hunting birds. Slipping through the dense underbrush, they were confronted by a large black bear. The bear refused to give way as the men advanced, and the hunters fired. The bear was wounded. It sprang toward the two. Cox, who was in the lead, drew a hunting-knife and thrust it at the animal's throat. He missed and before he could recover the bear raised on its haunches and struck at Cox. The animal struck the man in the face with its paws, tearing the flesh. As Cox jumped back quickly his companions opened fire again on the bear. A half-dozen shots killed bruin.

From the tollhouse north of the Oregon line in Humboldt County, Nev., the hills are reported to be alive with rabid coyotes, making it extremely dangerous for persons to travel without being armed. While riding his range, George Miner killed four mad beasts with a club and Frank Lamb also clubbed one to death recently. At the Sanders ranch, near Golconda, the rabid beasts are said to be in control of the situation and are so plentiful that men fear to venture out at night. A rabid animal attacked a teamster near Golconda and forced him to take refuge on the seat of his wagon. The camp dog was chewed to pieces when he gave battle to the intruder and the animal kept the teamster on the wagon all night. It was killed in the morning.

Announcement is made that an ambitious munition plan is under way in Canada by which financial houses are to be called upon to join Canadian factories on active service. It is proposed tremendously to extend the Canadian capacity for producing projectiles; to have a very substantial proportion of the Russian, French and British shell orders filled in Canada, and to have the business financed by the banking houses and other financial institutions of the Dominion. The plan constitutes a radical departure from that which has heretofore prevailed. It will mean that, instead of borrowing from Great Britain, Canada will make advances of credit and funds to England. Shell orders which have been filled or which are being filled in Canada have reached the total of \$500,000,000. More than 250 manufacturing firms are engaged upon the work, and it is estimated that Canadian firms have installed over \$30,000,000 worth of special machinery.

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GOOD CURRENT NEWS ARTICLES

Gasoline is far more expensive in Great Britain than in the United States, and in order not to inflict a too heavy outlay on physicians using light cars in their professional work, the British Government is now granting a rebate of 3d. per gallon to all doctors making application for the same before their local collector of taxes.

For many years Douglas County, Wash., has boasted of a ranch containing 300,000 acres all in one big piece. Recently this ranch has been chopped up into hundreds of little farms and the tales of its big dividends have passed into history. The ranch has for years been famous as the largest cattle feeding ground in the Pacific Northwest.

Recently Coleman, Texas, had a "rat-killing week," with prizes offered for the largest number of rats killed. The total number officially presented to the promoters was 1,158. The first prize, which was \$5 in gold, was awarded to Archie Hubbard, of Rural Route No. 1, who turned over to the committee 258 tails, that being all the evidence required.

Daisy Strayer, sixteen years old, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has a nose that was manufactured from a piece of bone taken out of her own rib. She has left the hospital and is on the road to recovery, her physician states. Suffering from a congenital disease of the nasal bone, a bone-grafting operation was necessary to avert permanent disfigurement. About three inches of the ninth rib on the right side of the body was removed and anchored to the skin and then whittled into shape.

For the first time in the history of the Denver County Court the will of a man of whose death there is no record has been lodged with the clerk of the court at Denver. It may become necessary to have the maker—George T. Sheets—declared legally dead before the instrument is offered for probate. Sheets, a contractor, made the will in 1893. He was then seventy-two years old. A year later he disappeared. The family did not know of the existence of the will until recently, when Attorney Edwin Parke discovered the document in his safe. Parke turned it over to the clerk of the court.

Here is a chance for dwellers in the South or for those in the North who are fortunate enough to possess hot-houses to grow pineapples far larger than any we see here. W. L. Van der Stott, of the Department of Public Works and Surveys, Kuching, Sarawak, writes to the Scientific American that he will be glad to supply at a moderate figure suckers of a great variety and give free all information about their cultivation. He says fruits weighing from 6 to 10 pounds can be expected within a year and that in a good loamy soil fruits weighing from 25 to 30 pounds are not rare, while one was grown recently that turned the scales at 54½ pounds. Pineapples can be grown with very little trouble when the mean annual temperature is not below 60 degrees Fahrenheit, and with an annual rainfall of over 70 inches.

GRINS AND CHUCKLES

"Is this the Union Dime Savings Bank?" "Yes."
"Well, I want to know if a nonunion man can deposit in your bank?"

"Hear about the new poison?" "No." "Aeroplane poison." "What the dickens is that?" "One drop and you're dead."

"Oh, papa, the baggage car was on fire at the depot!" "What caused it, little dear?" "A hot newspaper, the station-master said." She meant a hot journal.

"So you went to see one of those old New England plays? Was it realistic?" "Indeed it was. Why, when the rainstorm came up, Uncle Henry's corns began to hurt him."

John—It's an easy matter for a man to get married. All he has to do is to find a bigger fool than he is. Kate—Yes, but it is rather difficult for some men to do that, I imagine.

Teacher—If a bricklayer gets four dollars for working eight hours a day, what would he get if he worked ten hours a day? Bright Pupil—He'd get a call-down from the union.

Daughter—Papa did not take the paper to the office with him this morning. Mother—He didn't? I'll bet it's got a lot of stuff showing how women can trim their own hats.

"Louise, I really cannot permit you to read novels on Sunday." "But, grandma, this novel is all right; it tells about a girl who was engaged to three Episcopal clergymen all at once."

"Children," said the teacher to his pupils, "you should be able to do anything equally well with either hand. With a little practise you will find it just as easy to do anything with one hand as it is with the other." "It is?" inquired the urchin at the foot of the class. "Let's see you put your left hand in the right-hand pocket of your trousers."

THE TWO FOUNDLINGS.

By Kit Clyde

"What a big dog yours is, Master Daniel? He is almost like a bear. What do you feed him with?"

"I feed him on robbers, boy," was the answer.

It was in crossing a part of the Le Bourbonnais, some thirty years ago, we caught this fragment of a conversation between a little boy and a peasant.

At the period we allude to Daniel was a sturdy peasant, well-to-do in the world, but once a foundling.

One morning, a poor widow, who was gathering fodder for her cow, heard the feeble wail of an infant, discovered Daniel, and adopted him. He grew into a sturdy boy, and was seven years of age when his protectress died. The very next day her nearest kinsman came and took possession, and poor Daniel was turned out to shift for himself.

Bare-footed, bare-headed, and bare-armed, Daniel went about from farm to farm for work.

By the time he was nine years old, one day, as he was gathering wild apples in a wood, he saw a shaggy creature lying at the foot of a tree, which he imagined to be a wolf.

Accordingly, he put himself on the defensive by raising his stick, when, on advancing a few steps further, he perceived the supposed wolf was an enormous dog, though emaciated and apparently dying of hunger and fatigue, as he lay panting, with his tongue lolling out.

To complete his pitiable state, the poor animal seemed to show, with almost human sagacity, that one of his paws was wounded by a thorn.

Daniel and the dog eyed each other; and these two outcasts seemed drawn together by the bonds of sympathy.

The dog seemed to say, "I am a vagrant, like yourself; do become my master."

The boy seemed to reply, "I am poor and forlorn, like you; so do become my friend and companion."

In another moment the thorn was carefully extracted, to the dog's great relief; and Daniel poured forth a few drops of water from his gourd down the animal's parched throat.

"As I was going to eat these wild apples, I can do without my bread. So here, take this for your breakfast," said he, emptying his scantily provided scrip.

In spite of his recent wound, the dog was so overjoyed that he rose from the ground and attempted to express his gratitude by gamboling about, and then licking his young benefactor's hand.

"Like me, you are no beauty," said Daniel, looking at his dumb friend; "so we shall suit each other all the better. A found child and a lost dog are made for friends."

He dubbed him Blacky, and they are the two foundlings.

Toward evening, Daniel returned to the farm, at which he happened to be employed just then; and after putting his cattle into the stable, he sat down to the table to eat his supper with the rest of the household.

"What's that great dog which follows you?" asked an old plowman.

"Get out, you nasty brute; you look like a wolf," cried one of the women.

"Like a bear, you mean," exclaimed one of the farm servants, snatching a gun to frighten away the intruder.

"Gently, Gervaise," cried Daniel, letting fall his tin spoon on his plate; "if you turn Blacky away, you turn me away, too."

"Go!" said the farmer.

Then, taking up his wallet and stick, he left the room, followed by his dog.

Away these two went, without either pudding or penny, and were not seen any more in that part of the country.

Daniel never begged, but he worked for both.

One day a miller told him he might fish in his pond.

At a few yards' distance the miller's little boy and girl were playing on the bank of the torrent, which, owing to a storm the day before, had been swollen by several tributary rivulets that flowed into the Paquerette; and while attempting to snatch at a branch of willow floating along the tide, the little girl lost her balance and fell into the water.

In less than a couple of minutes she would have been smashed to atoms beneath the millwheel had not Daniel luckily perceived her danger, and cried, "Here, Blacky!" and pointed to the little girl.

Into the foaming waters the mastiff dashed, and, seizing the child by her clothes, soon brought her ashore and laid her on the grass. Although all this was but the work of a few moments, the child's screams had brought out the miller and the other inmates of the mill.

The mother, all in tears, came running up, just as the dog was shaking his wet skin, and Daniel had succeeded in bringing the little girl to her senses.

"Now, to think I could ever have thought ill of the poor dog," cried she, patting Blacky, while she bid her maid prepare a nice mess for him.

"That's not enough, wife, for the service they have done us," observed the miller. "Do you know that but for this young chap and his dog our Georgette would have been lost?"

"We only did our duty, Master Mennier," said Daniel.

"That's all very well," replied the miller, "but I must do mine in turn. Now, my good boy, what do you say to staying with us?"

"I should like it vastly, Master Mennier," said the boy.

"In a year or so, if your looks don't deceive me, you'll be strong and sturdy enough to make an excellent miller's man. What wages would you expect?"

This inquiry sounded new and delightful to the young wanderer's ears.

"No—do you really mean to offer me to earn money?" said the lad.

"To be sure I do," replied the miller; "how much do you expect yearly?"

"Why," said the boy, half dazzled by so brilliant a prospect, "I should expect a great deal—a matter of fifteen francs."

"So let it be," said the miller; "but that's not all; you shall have your board and lodging, and washing into the bargain; and every midsummer you shall have a new coat, and every Christmas a black woolen cap and a couple of pair of wooden shoes."

"Thank you, master," said the boy, adding, after a moment's reflection. "But stop, master; there's something we haven't agreed upon yet."

"What's that?" quoth the miller.

"Why, I should like Black to have his house in the farm yard, and some bran and water twice a day."

"So he shall," said the miller, "and there's my hand upon the bargain," added he, taking Daniel's comparatively soft hand into his horny one.

The sole drawback to Daniel's happiness was the consciousness that poor Blacky was only on sufferance. Yet Blacky was picking up his crumbs as well as his master, and nobody would have recognized in him the poor half-starved animal that lay wounded in the forest.

"Ever since we have adopted Blacky," observed the miller, "our dogs look like so many half-starved rats. He beats them all."

Even Georgette found fault with the poor mastiff, though she owed him so much; so that, from little to much, they hinted to Daniel that he ought to turn his dog away.

"Nay, then," said Dan, "this is a good opportunity for carrying a scheme I have had in my head this long while."

He then whispered to Blacky to follow him, and they went beyond the Paquerette, to some waste land near a wood. Daniel proceeded to cut down four young saplings, which he stuck into the ground, and then roofed them with straw, and stubble, and heather, so as to make a kind of hut.

"This shall be your house, Blacky," said he.

The dog wagged his tail as if he understood, and took possession of his new home.

"What have you done with Blacky?" asked the miller's wife that same evening of Daniel.

"I have set him up in a house of his own," said Dan. "I don't mean him to go on being idle; he must earn his bread like myself. I shall give him a flock to mind."

"A flock of what, pray?" asked the miller, jeeringly.

"A flock of sheep to begin with," answered Daniel.

Everybody laughed, and the miller asked him how he meant to get the sheep.

Daniel's hand dived down into a little wooden box that had been lent him, and fished up a worsted stocking, from which elegant purse he drew forth the sum of eight-and-forty francs, the fruit of his long savings and heroic self-denial.

"That's the product of three years' saving of my wages and three years' sale of fish I've caught, and it will serve to purchase me a flock," said he.

Next day he erected stabling for his future stock on the waste land.

When the buildings were completed, he went to a neighboring fair and purchased five sheep.

Blacky now entered upon his new duties, and a faithful sheep dog he proved. At the year's end the flock was in a most prosperous condition, and Daniel had been able to add to their number by fresh savings.

By degrees, as his little hoard kept increasing, Daniel added a pig-sty and next a donkey to his establishment.

And next he was able to purchase a good piece of waste land from the parish, which was sold him cheap enough, as the soil was in reality but very poor.

He then employed his leisure moments in clearing his land and sowing his corn. In due time he gathered in his harvest, and built a mud wall around the estate.

By this time Georgette, whom the dog had rescued from drowning, had grown up into a young woman.

One day the miller said to his wife, referring to Daniel:

"That chap made a fortune out of nothing, and he is the fit husband for our girl."

The wedding was fixed to take place the next summer.

"But it must be on the condition that Blacky returns to the mill that same day," said Daniel.

"So let it be," replied the miller.

When June came around, Daniel and Georgette were married, and Blacky was allowed the undisputed range of the farm yard.

"I shall give up my mill to you, since my son has gone for a soldier," said his father-in-law one day to Daniel. "I have now enough to live comfortably as an honest citizen in town."

"Thank you, father-in-law," said the foundling; "only, however rich I may grow, you won't catch me confining myself within the walls of a city where the gossips are as bad as a hornet's nest."

In the course of one December, when the frost was very severe, Daniel set forth one day to fetch a somewhat large sum of money from a neighboring borough.

By a great chance he was not accompanied by Blacky, and returned home rather the worse for the wine he drank at the inn at Issoudon.

Towards midnight Georgette was startled out of her sleep. She thought she heard Blacky howling piteously, and was so frightened that she shook her husband by the arm.

"Don't you hear the dog?" said she.

"Let me alone," quoth Daniel. "You are dreaming."

But Georgette was not dreaming, for Blacky now began to bark aloud, and was making the most desperate efforts to break his chain.

Three men, with faces blackened by soot, had entered the mill before the dog's barking had awakened any of the inmates.

"We must find the chest where the miller keeps his money," whispered one to the others, "and kill anybody who surprises us."

The maid servant slept in a kind of passage leading to her employer's room. On being suddenly awakened by the light of the lantern, the poor creature screamed aloud:

"Thieves! thieves!"

But before she could stir to alarm the house, one of the wretches stabbed her, while the other two rushed into the miller's room, and, drawing his bed curtains, cried:

"Your money or your life!"

Daniel had, however, jumped out of bed, and, placing two fingers across his mouth, gave a sharp whistle. In another moment Blacky had broken his chain, and, darting into the house, seized one of the robbers by the calf, and bit him so severely that he let fall his lantern with a loud cry.

The faithful animal next rushed at the other's head, and left him dead on the spot, while the third was glad to escape as fast as he could.

As to Daniel, he and Blacky were more friendly than ever, if indeed that were possible, after that eventful night.

NEWS OF THE DAY

A new herd of buffalo is being established in the Bad Lands, between White and Bad rivers, South Dakota. Several buffaloes from the big Philip herd, near Fort Pierre, have escaped and at once made their way West. A pair of them appeared at a farm north of Philip, and, after scaring the cattle on the farm and chasing members of the family, they were headed toward Philip. One of the animals was got into a corral, but it soon broke out.

Sergeant Rovillard, an aged G. A. R. veteran, of Houston, Texas, was made happy by the return of a silver watch which was confiscated from him fifty years ago by Lieut. W. D. Colvin, Confederate veteran. When Colvin and Rovillard met here for the first time in fifty years they immediately recognized each other. The "Confed" said: "Now, 'Yank,' here is your silver watch and a very pretty silver link chain I made with my own hands. I will make you a present of the chain as interest for the use of the watch during the last fifty years."

What is believed to be the oldest fir tree in the country has been found in the Olympic National Forest, Seattle, Wash., by a ranger, according to a report from the Forest Bureau. The tree has 1,350 rings of growth, one ring for each year, which would make the big stick well over a thousand years old. The oldest recorded fir up to this record-breaker had 740 annual rings. Buying of timber in national forests in Washington and Oregon is on the increase, according to the reports issued by the bureau, which estimates the receipts for the first quarter of the year as more than half what they were for the entire previous fiscal year.

Fire losses in Berlin are strikingly low. This is due, among other things, to the small quantity of wood used for structural purposes, the limitations of the height of buildings to 72 feet, and to the temperament of the people. All real (immovable) property in Berlin is required by law to be insured in the so-called Municipal Fire Society (stadtsche Feuersozietat). The report of this institution for a recent fiscal year announced fire losses in the course of the year amounting to \$260,529 on policies aggregating \$1,314,367,233, or 20 cents of indemnity paid for each \$1,000 of insurance. The average for the decade of 1902-1911 was 21 cents.

During the past summer the members of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology summer school, encamped in the Maine woods, were kept in touch with the outside world by means of two wireless stations. Two wireless sets were employed by the students: One, a receiving set loaned to the campers by the United States Government; the other, a set built by the students. A flagpole was used as the support for the antenna, while the ground connection was in the form of a galvanized-iron pail, loaded with stones and sunk in a nearby lake; the copper connecting

wires being wound around the pail to insure good contact. Although the camp was situated eight miles from the nearest village, the students were constantly informed as to the world's doings by wireless bulletins which were received by their apparatus.

While patrolling his beat on Franklin street, Natchez, Miss., Policeman Ed Gahan saw a mysterious animal on the steps of the Elks' Club here. The cop, thinking that the "goat" had escaped, executed a flanking and enveloping movement and captured the animal. Believing it was the official "goat," the officer had prepared for desperate resistance, but immediate surrender was made. He found that he had captured a possum of enormous size. The possum was placed under arrest, taken to the station-house and a charge of prowling entered against him. Not being able to explain his presence in the heart of the city and especially at the Elks' Club, the possum was condemned to execution and fell into the clutches of the colored janitor of the City Hall.

Not long ago the proprietor of a mountain resort in southern California decided to purchase a piano for the entertainment of his guests. Access to his alpine place is gained only by following a long and exceedingly narrow trail which hugs the sides of the mountains and occasionally overlooks an uninviting precipice. Freight is always carried up the trail on the backs of pack animals, and these, most often, are sure-footed burros. It devolved upon two of these little beasts to transport the piano up the mountain, which they did with the assistance of several mountaineers. The heavy instrument was securely strapped to a pair of long timbers, the burros were placed at either end, and the planks lashed to the pack-saddles. The men guided the animals and steadied the load. The burros negotiated the mountain safely and delivered the piano uninjured.

The American consul at Jerusalem reports that the invasion of locusts from which that country has suffered this year has been the worst within the memory of the present generation. He says: "As far as the eye would reach, the fields were covered by the locusts, and even the street in front of the American Consulate had the appearance, in the movement of the green and black mass, of a flowing river." Olive groves, orchards, vineyards, market gardens, and most summer crops appear to have been completely devastated. Early in the year the Turkish authorities appointed a commission to fight the locusts, with Dr. Aaron Aaronsohn, director of the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station, as high commissioner. An order was issued requiring every male inhabitant between the ages of 15 and 60 to collect 20 kilos (44 pounds) of locusts or pay an exemption fee of one Turkish pound (\$4.40). These and other vigorous measures proved, however, to be of little avail.

INTERESTING ARTICLES

COSTS UNITED STATES \$1,000,000,000 A YEAR.

Destruction of birds, according to Col. G. O. Shields, president of the League of American Sportsmen, costs the United States \$1,000,000,000 a year. Col. Shields made the assertion in an address before the Chicago Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Cotton growers," he said, "lose \$100,000,000 a year by the boll weevil. Why? Because quails, prairie chickens, meadow larks and other birds which formerly were there in millions have been swept away by thoughtless men and boys." The chinch bug costs wheat growers another \$100,000,000, he said, and the Hessian fly \$200,000,000. Col. Shields added that potato growers pay \$17,000,000 a year for spraying poisons, and remarked that a quail slain in Pennsylvania had 127 potato bugs in its craw.

UNSANITARY PRACTISES.

The practise of licking stamps and gummed envelope flaps, as well as that of sucking the end of the lead pencil, is very unsanitary, indeed. As every one should know, the glue used on stamps and envelope flaps is made of refuse products, consisting of the bones and hoofs of animals which may or may not have been diseased. The stamps and envelopes themselves are made of all sorts of rags, which, in the course of their transformation into paper, are handled by all sorts and conditions of people. We never know whether it is a clean or dirty pair of hands that has handled a stamp or envelope just before we purchase it.

There have even been cases of poisoning from the stamp-licking practise. Fortunately, they are rare, but it suffices to say that the ordinary sterilizing process in their making does not necessarily kill a form of germs that are poisonous. The safest plan is to moisten the gummed surfaces on a small wet sponge and take no risks.

Children should be carefully warned about the indiscriminate sucking and chewing of pencils. This seems to be a habit of childhood that is hard to overcome. The lead in a pencil is poisonous, and so is the point, and the wood furnishes a convenient lodging-place for all sorts of germs.

CANARIES SANG OPERAS.

Policeman St. John, of the Greenwich Street Station, passed an Italian peddler who was selling canary birds outside of St. Paul's Church, at Broadway and Vesey street, New York City. The canary birds sang beautifully. Several women were entranced and were reaching for their pocketbooks. Even Patrolman St. John stopped to listen in a calm rapture.

But suddenly the melody which one bird was supposed to be pouring out of its throat became familiar. A series of trills followed with a long melodious air from "Rigoletto" made the policeman wonder where the bird got its musical education. He moved up closer and he observed that the bird was achieving its operatic performance with-

out moving a muscle of its throat. Such a thing could not be possible, thought the policeman, and he watched the moves of the Italian's mouth. Then he caught the glint of a mechanical whistle between the peddler's lips.

"Take that whistle out of your mouth," St. John commanded.

The Italian grabbed it from between his lips and shoved it into his pocket.

"Now make that bird sing," St. John added.

But the bird chirped and twittered without singing an operatic note. A woman who was about to purchase the canary realized that she had been deceived by a whistle, abused the Italian roundly for making her lose so much time, said such a person ought to be arrested, and marched off. Then Policeman St. John asked the Italian whether he had a license to sell the birds.

"Little birds make people happy—no need a license," he replied with a shrug of his shoulders.

The policeman took him before Magistrate Koenig in the Tombs Court, where the prisoner said he was Joseph Bizone, of 39 Henry street, and made his living by selling canaries. He was fined \$1 for peddling without a license.

LIGHTEST KNOWN VEGETABLE SUBSTANCE.

Among the various economic products of the plant kingdom the pith or vegetable principle known as the medullin of the sunflower stalk is by far the lightest. The structure and formation of all piths are essentially very similar, being composed of thin-walled cellular tissue. The contents of these cells, which are all polyhedral in outline and loosely joined together, vary much in different plants; it is for this reason the pith of one plant often appears more or less different from that of another. The cells filling the interior of the sunflower stalk when young contain sap and a large number of starch grains. The starch gradually disappears as the foliage, which is in communication with the pith, becomes fully organized. After the leaves are developed, the pith soon dries up, leaving only the very thin walls of the cells. The pith in this State has a specific gravity of 0.028, while that of the elder is 0.09 and of cork 0.24.

The sunflower is cultivated to a considerable extent in central Russia, where every part of the plant is put to certain economic uses. The discovery of the extreme lightness of the pith of the stalk has essentially increased the commercial value of the plant. This light cellular substance is now carefully removed from the stalk and applied to a good many important uses. One of its chief uses is the making of life-saving appliances. Cork with a buoyancy of 1 to 5 and reindeer's hair with one of 1 to 10 have been used; the pith of the sunflower has a buoyancy of 1 to 35. The latter can be used advantageously in the construction of boats and life preservers. A sufficient quantity can be worn on a person without any inconvenience. The pith of the larger sunflower stalks is used extensively as a substitute for other materials formerly employed in making moxas for cauterizing purposes.

TAKE NOTICE!

Itch Powder, Bombs and Cachoo cannot be sent by mail. Only orders for these goods amounting to one dollar will be accepted, as delivery will have to be made by express.

GOOD LUCK PUZZLE.



It consists of three horseshoes fastened together. Only a very clever person can take off the closed horseshoe from the two linked horseshoes. But it can be done in a moment when the secret is known. Price, by mail, 10c. each. H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

THE LITTLE GEM TELEPHONE.



The transmitter in this telephone is made from the best imported parchment; with ordinary use will last a long time; can be made in any length by adding cord; the only real telephone for the money; each one put up in a neat box; fully illustrated, with full directions how to use them. Price, 12c., postpaid. WOLFF NOVELTY CO., 29 W. 26th St., N. Y.

SURPRISE MOVING-PICTURE MACHINE.



It consists of a small nicked metal tube, 4½ inches long, with a lens eye-view, which shows a pretty ballet girl or any other scene. Hand it to a friend who will be delighted with the first picture, tell him to turn the screw on the side of the instrument, to change the views, when a stream of water squirts in his face, much to his surprise. The instrument can be refilled with water in an instant, and one filling will suffice for four or five victims.

Price, 30c. each by mail, postpaid; 4 for \$1.00. H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

ROUGH RIDER DISC PISTOLS.



Made of nicely colored wood 5½ inches long. The power is furnished by rubber bands. Ten discs of cardboard with each pistol. Price, 6c. each, postpaid.

H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

SURPRISE PERFUME BOTTLE.



Those in the joke may freely smell the perfume in the bottle, but the uninitiated, on removing the cork will receive the contents in his hands. This is a simple and clever joke.

Price, 10c. each by mail, postpaid; 3 for 25c.

H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.



TRICK COIN HOLDER.—The coin holder is attached to a ring made so as to fit anyone's finger. The holder clasps tightly a 25c. piece. When the ring is

placed on the finger with the coin showing on the palm of the hand and offered in change it cannot be picked up. A nice way to tip people. Price by mail, postpaid, 10c. each.

WOLFF NOVELTY CO., 29 W. 26th St., N. Y.

THE JOKER'S CIGAR.



The biggest sell of the season. A real cigar made of tobacco, but secreted in the center of cigar about one-half inch from end is a fountain of sparklets. The moment the fire reaches this fountain hundreds of sparks of fire burst forth in every direction, to the astonishment of the smoker. The fire is stage fire, and will not burn the skin or clothing. After the fireworks the victim can continue smoking the cigar to the end. Price, 10c.; 3 for 25c.; 1 dozen, 90c., mailed, postpaid.

H. F. LANG, 1815 Centre St., B'klyn, N. Y.

BOYS, LOOK! Just Cut. The Most Wonderful Wild West Indian Puzzle Ever Invented. Looks simple, but will always fool your friends. You can easily earn big money making and selling them yourself. 10 cents gets one with full instructions free. **FRY, 371 William, Winnipeg, Canada.**

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WINDOW SMASHERS.



The greatest sensation, just from Paris. A most wonderful effect of a smashing, breaking, falling pane or glass. It will electrify everybody. When you come home, slam the door shut and at the same time throw the discs to the floor. Every pane of glass in the house will at once seem to have been shattered. Price, by mail, postpaid, 35c., a set of six plates.

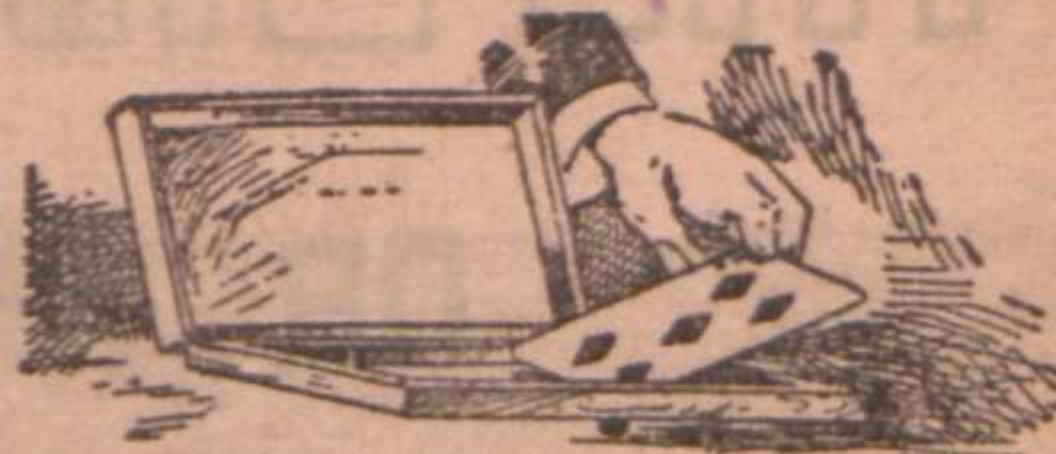
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THE INK BLOT JOKER.



Fool Your Friends.—The greatest novelty of the age! Have a joke which makes everybody laugh. More fun than any other novelty that has been shown in years. Place it on a desk, tablecloth, or any piece of furniture, as shown in the above cut, near some valuable papers, or on fine wearing apparel. Watch the result! Oh, Gee! Price, 15c. each, postpaid.

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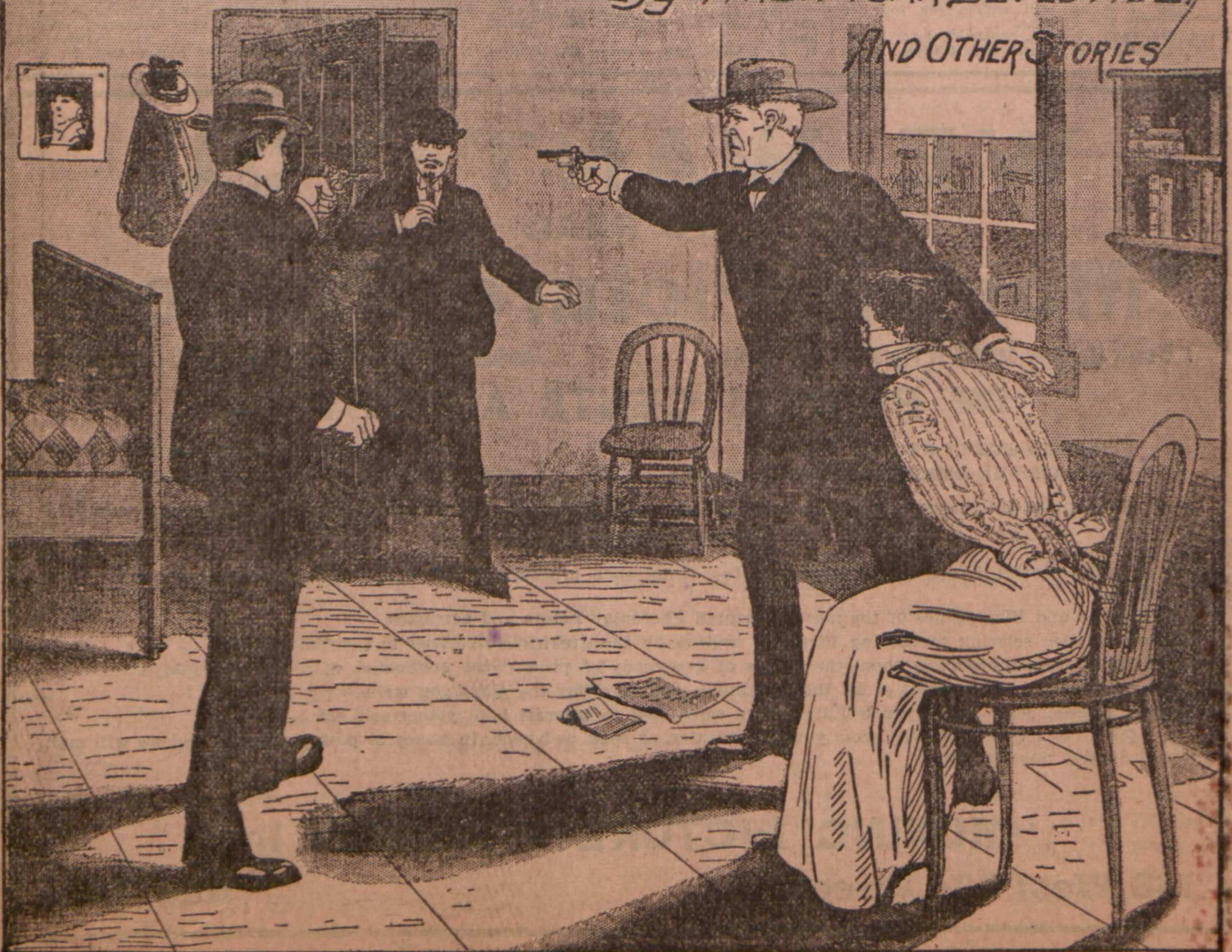
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